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*Hudson County*  
*Sketchbook*



## FLUVANNA COURTHOUSE

THE MAXIM HELD SACRED  
BY EVERY FREE PEOPLE  
O B E Y T H E L A W S

THIS is the inscription carved on a white stone lintel above the door of the Fluvanna County Courthouse in Palmyra.

This Courthouse was preceded by a frame one "covered with shingles and weatherboarded with feather-edged plank located at Napier's Ford across the Rivanna River on a ridge on the property of Colonel Thomas Napier and Captain Napier." This building was considered temporary, and in 1829 a contract for \$4,990 was awarded General John Hartwell Cocke for a new courthouse. The Commission which superintended the erection of the Courthouse was composed of: Dr. John M. Wills, James Curran, James McGruder, and Basil M. Jones.

To many people — from the slaves who with six yoke of oxen hauled the massive stone steps from the Bremo quarries, to the master carpenters, to the skilled designer — Fluvanna owes a debt of gratitude for the most beautiful courthouse in Virginia.

From this dignified and impressive building shines forth the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, who had hopes for a free people ordering their own affairs.



# Fluvanna County, (Va.)

# Sketchbook

1777 - 1963

FACTS AND FANCIES  
OF  
FLUVANNA COUNTY  
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

---

DEDICATED TO THE CITIZENS  
OF THE COUNTY OF FLUVANNA

*A Memorial to the Past*  
*A Challenge to the Present • A Guide to the Future*

---

A PROJECT OF  
FLUVANNA CIVIL WAR COMMISSION, 1961-65  
SPONSORED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



1681259

FLUVANNA COUNTY SKETCH BOOK





James River above Columbia was called Fluvanna (Fluvius Anne) in the honor of Queen Anne, daughter of James II of England — from this upper part of the James the county received its name. The Rivanna was also named for Queen Anne.



*Copyright 1963 • Mrs. Ellis Pollard Snead*

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69 - 847  
F O R E W O R D

I HAVE set forth in these pages traditions and incidents garnered from the writings of others and have tried to weave them together to give, along with drawings, a history of Fluvanna, its traditions and its people.

This search has been fascinating, and I regret that I have had to omit many stories because there was room only for those events which I felt were most important in moulding the County. Material has often been discovered by accident, old letters have been found on a trash pile and behind the wainscoting of an old house, and a map of the First Battle of Manassas turned up in a soldier's knapsack on a creek bank — these are examples of lucky finds.

For those interested in making further studies of the history of Fluvanna, there are books about various Fluvanna families, old manuscripts and letters. Use has been made of material in the public libraries.

Fluvanna County has one of the best preserved and most complete set of records in Virginia, but unfortunately they go back only to 1777. Fluvanna was formed from Albemarle in 1777, Albemarle from Goochland in 1745, and Goochland from Henrico in 1725. Records prior to 1777 are on file in these parent counties, and in Louisa County.

Those who have additional material to add to the historical data about Fluvanna County may give either the original or a photostatic copy. These will be placed in the Document Room of the Muesum in the old stone jail at Palmyra.

*"For on the past the present is built."*

— V.J.S.





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THIS book is a mosaic, formed from the contributions of many people; and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

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*AUTHORS have been very kind in permitting quotations from their books  
to be used. A Bibliography was omitted for reasons of space and time –  
sources can be given.*



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THE INDIANS  
IN  
FLUVANNA

THE writings of Capt. John Smith and Thomas Jefferson, along with studies made by others interested in the Indians of Virginia, lead us to believe that at the time the first English settlers arrived at Jamestown there was a thriving Indian village in what is now Fluvanna County. This village, known as Rassawek, was one of the five capitals of the Monacans. The Monacans comprised a powerful confederacy that belonged to the Sioux family.

While most of the first settlers were occupied in felling trees and building cabins, Captain Newport, Captain John Smith and twenty others of the group explored the river they had named "The James" in the hope of finding a water passage to the Pacific Ocean, thought then to be but a comparatively short distance away. At the site of what is now Richmond, they found a large Algonquin village ruled by the great chief, Powhatan. From him they learned of an Indian nation called the Monacans whose chief habitation was located, according to Smith, "upon the head of the Powhatans." Captain Newport and Captain Smith, with a party of about one



hundred, made another expedition in 1607 and found two Monacan villages in what are now Powhatan and Chesterfield counties. There is no evidence, however, that they ever reached Monasukapanough near Charlottesville, or Rassawek, the village described by Powhatan.

There has been some controversy concerning the actual location of Rassawek. David Busnell, Jr., an authority on Virginia Indians and a writer for the Smithsonian Institute, placed Rassawek at the junction of the James and Rivanna Rivers in Fluvanna at Columbia. To Fluvannians, this location is "Point of Fork." Enough Indian relics have been unearthed at "Point of Fork" and areas near Wilmington, Troy, Carysbrook, Antioch, Columbia, Machunk Creek, and Palmyra to convince historians that Fluvanna at one time was a flourishing Indian community. When Fluvanna County was settled by whites in the 1720's and 30's, the Indians were gone from the "Land of the Monacans." Probably the feuds with the Powhatans and the increasing power of the Iroquois forced them to move westward.

— LILLIAN K. MANN

## FLUVANNA COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE

PATRIOTISM, the love of "my own, my native land," is inborn in every human heart; and "my people" makes an appeal that has never yet failed to evoke a response. It is probably true that nowhere will be found a greater love for, or deeper loyalty to, his country than is felt by every son and daughter of "Old Flu"; yet it remains also true that no study of Fluvanna history, no record of those who have made its history, commensurate with the interest and importance of the subject, has yet been made. I am venturing to reinstate in memory the names and records of those of "our people" who have done their part and passed on, and passing have handed on to us their torches.

Who were the people who made our County, and what of their descendants? I have been for some time gathering material for an answer to those questions. I have copied all the marriage bonds and other marriage records for the first quarter-century of the items. I have sought in printed matter for references to Fluvanna and its people, have collated all that I have found, and have added much



from the records of adjoining counties. But before proceeding with the roster of the early inhabitants and their descendants, it might be worthwhile to review briefly the story of the County itself.

Fluvanna was formed by separation from Albemarle in 1777. Its formation must have been of high interest to at least some of the people, to have engrossed as it did their attention and have been carried through at a time when the Revolutionary War clouds were hanging heavy over the land. It is one of the smallest counties of Virginia and also, in early days at least, one of the poorest ones. The County was settled mostly by small farmers, which is probably explained by the fact that lower prices for land prevailed in Fluvanna than in the adjoining counties. From Goochland on the east came the main tide of population, but it brought not many of the wealthy. Dame Fashion steadily refused to cross the Rivanna; and on the west, the opulent citizens of Albemarle have always boasted that they have never crossed the Sand Hills and the "Herrikin" — the natural divisions between the mother county and the daughter. Some of the settlers came from the counties to the north: Louisa, Orange and Spotsylvania; some also, though not many, from across the





James. A rather large group is known to have come from James City County, and several families from Northumberland.

At the time when Fluvanna was formed, the population was still sparse. On the James, the Cockes had already seated themselves at "Bremo," which was and has remained the outstanding "fine place" of the County; the Carys were at "Carysbrook" on the Rivanna, with a simpler home but an almost innumerable family of slaves. These two places were exceptions to the general rule, and in spite of their location were included in the "fashionable" circle. Among other prominent families were the Thompsons, north of Palmyra; the Napiers, on the Rivanna and its tributary creeks; the Willses, the Andersons, the Paynes, and a number of others might be named who had their ancestry among the most distinguished people of the colony.

Though not fashionable, the traditions and the conditions of culture were preserved among these early Fluvannians. Education was general; the old records show singularly few people under the necessity of "making their mark." They used silver upon their tables, and had family portraits and books. Spinnets are mentioned in some records. The farms were not large as compared with Albemarle or Goochland, but for their size were well equipped with slaves. The people were highly self-respecting, and the warm-hearted hospitality of Fluvannians became proverbial.

*by REV. B. L. ANCELL, M.A., D.D.*

## THE ACTION WHICH PUT FLUVANNA ON THE MAP

"At the house of Thomas Napier, Gent., in the county of Fluvanna, on the 7th. day of August, 1777, . . . a commission of the Peace and a commission of oyer and terminer bearing date the 19th. of June last past, directed to Wilson Miles Cary, John Ware, Roger Thompson, William Henry, George Thompson, Tho. Napier, Jesse Burton, and Martin Key, Gent., were produced and read. Whereupon the said Wilson Miles Cary took the oath of a justice, and a Justice of Oyer and Terminer, which were administered to him by John Ware and Roger Thompson, and the said John Ware, Roger Thompson,



William Henry, Geo. Thompson, Tho. Napier, Jesse Burton and Martin Key took the said oaths which were administered to them by the said Wilson Miles Cary."

"At a court held for Fluvanna County the 7th. day of April, Martin Key, Esq., became the first Sheriff of this County. Elias Wills and James Marks were his securities and entered into bonds. John Cobbs was appointed first Clerk of this Court. James Marks and Joshua Key, with the approbation of the court, became the under-sheriffs." There was no Treasurer, and the Sheriff collected taxes, served court orders, meted out corporal punishments, hangings, and apprehended runaway slaves.

Later officers: Clerk, John Timberlake; Surveyor, Henry Ware, appointed 25 October, 1785; Escheator, Samuel Richardson, 20 September, 1794; Coroners, Robert Quarles, May, 1793; John Wills, October, 1797; Robert Quarles, 10 July, 1799; Duncan McLaughlin, 7 August, 1801. Inspectors of Tobacco: for 1798, William Ashley, Robert Furbush, and Caleb Stone; for 1800, Patrick Napier; for 1801, Patrick Napier, Robert Kent, and James Cole.

Thomas Napier, Gent., was a very prominent citizen. He was a member of the Albemarle County Committee of Safety of 1775; he served in the Revolution as Colonel, and was later the Commanding Officer of the Militia of Fluvanna County. Wilson Miles Cary, Esq., the first J.P. of Fluvanna, resided at Carysbrook. John Ware, one of the first J.P.'s of Fluvanna, was a son of Peter Ware, of Goochland County.

Roger Thompson and George Thompson were sons of Joseph Thompson, first Sheriff of Albemarle County.

William Henry, Colonel, a brother of Patrick Henry, represented Fluvanna County in the State Legislature and owned a home near the Hardware River.

Martin Key, one of the first bench of Justices and first Sheriff, was a man of considerable property in Fluvanna and Albemarle counties. He was a son of the Albemarle County pioneer, John Key.

The county justices represented a system established for the colonies and continued after Virginia became a commonwealth. These justices brought no knowledge of law to the bench. They were ordinary planters, chosen because of their high character and dependability, and consequently endowed with a strong sense of justice and common sense.



The Constitution of 1869-1870 did away with this system of county courts, and each county was given a single justice to preside over the court. The county court system continued until 1902, when it was abolished by the Constitutional Convention and the present system was established.

## FLUVANNA COUNTY RECORDS

ALL early records in the Clerk's Office in Fluvanna are hand-written in beautiful script-like writing with introductory words in large, shaded capitals.

### *This Indenture*

The first deed recorded is Robert Richardson's, "for and in consideration of natural love and affection which I bear to my son William Richardson, have given him the said William Richardson, a certain Tract of Land, whereon he now lives containing three hundred and fifty acres, be the same more or less, BEGINNING at a great Branch of the Great Byrd Creek, at a Walnut, and a fork'd Spanish Oak, north twenty nine degrees, west one hundred and forty four poles to a pine, thence . . . etc. as witness my hand this seventh day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, and Second Year of this Commonwealth." This is signed with his Mark and the Seal.

The first will is that of George Thompson, proved in Court on the 6th day of November 1777. One of the very early wills was that of Joseph Scott, as illustrated.

"I, Joseph Scott in Albemarle County, in perfect health and sound memory do see cause by reason of my going to the wars do make this my last Will and Testament. Item, I give to my Sister Elizabeth Scott to her and her Heirs forever my whole and sole Estate if I should not return back again, if it is please God I should



return back again my Estate is to be my own." This will was proved at a court held for Fluvanna County on the 7th day of May 1778. So it appears that Joseph Scott did not "return back" from the wars.

*In the name of God. Amen*

The appraisal follows, consisting mainly of carpenter's tools, and "one violeen."

In another will, one of the Carys left his wife, among other things, "... six good mules, 2 good beeves, 1500 lbs. of falled pork, 6 barrels of flour, 40 gals. of whiskey and a hogshead of Lisbon wine."

This request was made in 1817: "I wish my executors and other relatives to refrain from going into the expenses of mourning which are often put on without concern for the deceased and are anti-republican."

*Benj <sup>his</sup> & Thacker  
mark* 

	s	d
1779 - The court proceeds to rate liquor, peach, and apple brandy for a gallon	10	
Whiskey	7	10
Cider		12
Small Beer		2
Rum	10	
Diet: A dinner of hot victuals		12
Breakfast		9
Meal for a servant		6
Lodging for a night		2
Corn or oats a gallon		12
Fodder or hay a pound		1
Stableage 24 hours		1
Pasturage 24 hours		1



ESTATE OF COLONEL WILLIAM HENRY

	£	s	d
A Parcel of books	8	0	0
A quantity of earthenware		18	
A looking glass	1	10	
A parcel of pewter		12	
A set of rasors and hone and strap	0	12	0
Two juggs and two butter pots	0	18	0
A gun and sword and bayonet	2	10	0
A pair of stillards and tea kettle	1	5	0
A feather bed and furniture	7	10	0
A lamb, four slays and a pair harness	2	0	0
Three Hax and two cotton wheels	2	0	0
Slaves were listed, the highest	135	0	0
Women and child were always listed together	130	0	0
With other articles in the inventory, the total was	1632	227	6

This equaled about \$5,000

October 8, 1785

The first marriage bond, dated the 4th day of September 1777, states "... there is a marriage shortly intended to be had and solemnized between Thomas Nelson and Sarah Cary." This bond was signed by Thomas Nelson, John Ware and Elias Wills.

There are old Church Registers, too, dating back to the early 1830's, sometimes with a notation beside a name, as "Departed in great peace after much suffering and patience," or "Expelled for drunkenness," or "dropped for immorality."

The sale and distribution of salt seemed to be an important matter in the early records. There were many orders for the "hands," or "laboring tithables" to work on the roads, the Three Notched Road being one mentioned.

In 1780 two slaves belonging to Rene (sometimes spelled Rainy) Woodson and Pat. Woodson, were convicted of stealing a quantity of Tanned Leather from the house of Wilson Miles Cary, and were sentenced to hang for the crime.

One man "came into Court and made it appear that he is in very indigent Circumstances on Account of his sons entering into the Service, two of whom are Dead, (it was) ordered that he be allowed two Barrels of Corn and 100 pounds of Salt Pork for the support of himself and wife one Year from this Time."

Almost all the records in the Clerk's Office have been rebound, and are in excellent condition. The Point of Fork Chapter of Fluvanna, The Daughters of the American Revolution, has given to the County a copy of "Tombstone Inscriptions of Fluvanna," com-



piled by Mrs. R. C. Omohundro, and has assisted in the restoring of old papers and books. The indexing of the records in 1952 under the Cott System makes it easy to find and enjoy all the documents written since the organization of the county in 1777.

## THE ARSENAL AT POINT OF FORK

IN the Spring of 1781 most of the military stores of Virginia were in the arsenal at Point of Fork, where the Rivanna flows into the James about 45 miles above Richmond. The Post was located about two miles from their confluence. In the heart of Virginia it was advantageously placed for comparative safety from the enemy, and for transportation facilities. Both rivers were navigable for light craft from above the falls at Richmond to their upper reaches. Roads extended across the country in every direction. The roads and rivers

*Map of "Attack of the Rebels at the Point of Fork" A & B - Queens Rangers & 71st regt. formed - C - Cavalry at Ross plantation C & D - detachment of Cavalry & Jagers - E - Rebel rearguard with 9 pieces of brass cannon & howitzers - F - Rebels formed after passing James river G - 71st Regt. H & J - Queens Rangers & Cavalry after quitting the point of fork.*



—Courtesy Colonial Williamsburg



were alive with transportation — wagon trains from everywhere, and brigades of canoes from up and down the streams.

Governor Jefferson wrote on May 25, 1781, in part: "The clothing which came here from Philadelphia is ordered to the Point of Fork in the Wagons which brought it." From far up the James, from Montgomery County, they brought lead for shot; from Bedford, iron for grape and ball and for bayonets and ramrods, and hemp from the "back counties" for cordage; from Chesterfield, Goochland and Henrico came coal for the forges. While from all directions by land and water came salt, flour, lard and bacon for rations. There was a constant inflow of materials for clothing, leather for shoes and harness, canvas for wagon and boat covers and for cartridge boxes; domestic and foreign flints and muskets, swords, pieces of artillery, sulphur for the manufacture of powder, tools for every purpose; and rum for the fatigue soldiers who were cleaning arms.

The first set of buildings included the armory, magazine shops and other structures for provisions, military stores, etc. These were constructed of timber, stone and brick.

When Cornwallis opened his Virginia campaign in the spring of 1781, Baron von Steuben was at the Albemarle Barracks with a small detachment. Lafayette was overwhelmed and retreated from Richmond on May 26th, and Cornwallis continued into Hanover County. The enemy controlled the whole State north of the James, and Point of Fork was at the mercy of hostile raiding parties. Steuben, therefore, marched with his recruits to Point of Fork. There his detachment would temporarily cover the removal of the stores. But he warned the state authorities that he would march southward as soon as his men were equipped. He had received orders to do so from General Greene who was in command of the Continental Army in the Southern States.

When Cornwallis had arrived at the North Anna on June 1, he realized that Lafayette had made good his escape. He therefore decided to return to the James Valley with his main army after making two important detachments. One of these was to send Tarleton to capture Governor Thomas Jefferson and the legislature at Charlottesville. We know that he did not succeed in this because of the famous ride of Jack Jouett to warn them.

The other detachment was sent to capture the arsenal at Point of Fork. This was under the command of Lt. Col. Simcoe. The main army under Lord Cornwallis was to move to Goochland Court



House, about a day's march below Point of Fork, and Tarleton and Simcoe were to meet him there.

Baron von Steuben had learned part of this. He knew that at least two strong hostile columns threatened his position. Since the Rivanna was fordable in several places, he proceeded with dispatch to transport the stores in the arsenal across the James, where much of them were hauled away and some hidden in the woods.

Simcoe's men did ford the Rivanna and arrived at Point of Fork on June 5 around noon, where Steuben observed them from the opposite shore. In Simcoe's account he tells of disposing his troops for such a distance along the shore that he made Steuben believe that the whole army of Cornwallis had arrived at Point of Fork. Light Horse Harry Lee improves on this story by affirming that on the night of the fifth, Simcoe covered the hills with enough campfires for the whole British Army and that this put the Baron to flight before daybreak. Simcoe does not confirm this in his account, and the Baron's dispatches make it clear that long before nightfall on the fifth he had calmly and correctly appraised the situation and had decided that it was his duty to withdraw. It was his primary mission to reinforce Greene. Simcoe claims a great quantity of stores destroyed, but many more had already been carried away or hidden. Some heavy pieces were even dropped into the James and later recovered.

After the war the arsenal at Point of Fork was rebuilt and maintained by the State of Virginia. There were shipments to remote regions as the country was settled. Some of these moved to the head of the Kentucky River, thence down the Ohio and the Mississippi. Daniel Boone, the famous pioneer, and some members of his outfit were at the arsenal in December 1791 and signed for powder and lead for use in his expeditions.

The last superintendent of the arsenal was Robert Quarles of "Fair Play" in Fluvanna County. He served until the post was discontinued in 1801. The stores were dispersed, most of which were removed to Richmond.

None of the buildings of the arsenal are remaining now, though there is some evidence to show where some of the buildings were. A copy of an excellent map of the arsenal will be in the Documents Room of Fluvanna's Old Stone Jail Museum.

*This is based on information taken from Ronald Cocke's brief history of the Point of Fork Arsenal, "General von Steuben," by John McAuley Palmer, and Simcoe's "Military Journal."*

— NANCY S. BERCAW



F L U V A N N A C H U R C H E S

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### THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF ENGLAND

FOLLOWING the political organization of the County, other matters were taken up. "After the formation of the County, all the part of the parishes of Saint Anne and Fredericksville which shall be within the same county of Fluvanna shall be one district parish to be called by the name of Fluvanna County Parish."

Prior to the formation of Fluvanna, a new church was begun in a "section of the Parish on the James River where the increase of population made another church necessary." On May 14, 1777, St. Anne discharged the undertaker, Turner Anderson, from his bond and "suffered him to sell the European Materials which he had provided for the building."

What the "European materials" were or where the church was, no one knows.

Petitions were then circulated protesting the sale of the glebe land and the sale of the church building. Then another petition asking for the sale of the glebe land was drawn up. The fourth petition in 1790 was prepared by the Baptist Association and sent to all Virginia counties praying for the "saile of the glebe lands in the possession of the Episcopal Church, the free occupation of all the churches and for an equal distribution of all church property for the good of the public."

These petitions are of particular interest because they contain the signatures of many of the male inhabitants of early Fluvanna, photostats of which are in the Document Room of the Museum.

### BROKEN-BACK CHURCH

THE "BROKEN-BACKT" CHURCH was the first Methodist Meeting House in Fluvanna and the most historically significant in Virginia. A conference was held with Broken-Back Church on May 18, 1779,

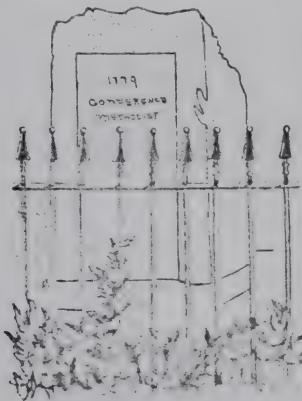


which led to the formation of the Methodist denomination, separate from the Established Church of England.

About 2½ miles north of Palmyra on Route 15 there is a marker located near the original site of the Broken-Back Church. Church of England historical records prove that this early church was built before 1772 and it is believed that it was built of logs. While the church was under construction, a tree fell on the ridge pole and broke it. The pole was repaired instead of replacing it with a new one, with the result that thereafter the roof showed a noticeable sag, or "broken back." It is presumed that the church existed until 1830 when Palmyra and Salem Methodist Churches branched out from it.

The first Methodists were Societies formed within the Church of England. The local and itinerant preachers held services and converted thousands, but the people depended on the ministers ordained by the Established Church of England to administer the sacraments. Loyal to the King, many of these Church of England clergymen (including those sent over by Wesley<sup>1</sup>) returned to England with the outbreak of the Revolution, leaving a dearth of ministers.

The lay preachers assembled in Conference with the Broken-Back Church in 1779, determined to ordain themselves in order to perform weddings, conduct funerals, and administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. Methodists in some other states did not agree with this action, so for the sake of peace they desisted and appealed to Wesley. At the close of the War, Wesley took official action and the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1784.



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<sup>1</sup>One official Wesley representative, Francis Asbury, remained.



Among the preachers attending the 1779 Conference were Isham Tatum, Charles Hopkins, Nelson Reed, Reuben Ellis, Philip Gatch, Thomas Morris, James Morris, James Forster, John Major, Andrew Yeargin, Henry Willis, Francis Poythress, John Sagman, Leroy Cole, Carter Cole, James O'Kelly, William Moore and Samuel Roe. At this conference twenty-three preachers were assigned to twelve Virginia circuits. There were 300 Methodists in Fluvanna, 4,507 in Virginia; a total of 8,577 in America.

Early records of the "Columbia Circuit" (later, Fluvanna Circuit) show that Cunningham Meeting House was built following a revival in 1806, and Hughes Meeting House (Byrd Chapel) was founded in 1816. These two are included in the records of 1832, which show there were twenty-four classes on the Circuit: Palmyra, Salem, Union Mills, Concord, Columbia, Seven Islands (Seay's Chapel), Zion, Goodman's (Wesley Chapel), Brick Union (Fork Union), and other churches in surrounding counties.

### LYLES BAPTIST CHURCH

**LYLES BAPTIST CHURCH** stands today surrounded by big oaks and tall pine trees at historic Wilmington. A special peace and quiet hover over the old brick building and the cemetery on the adjoining slope.





The first Baptist Church in Fluvanna, was founded in 1770-74; the present building was erected in 1882. An early building of wood was replaced by the first brick one in 1839. It is not the buildings, but the members — their outstanding faith and loyalty — that make the history of Lyles so inspiring.

In the first 102 years, Lyles had four ministers, Philip Weber, William Baskett, Robert Lilly, and Peter Hoge; and four clerks, Benjamin Lee, Benjamin Bowles, Sr., John Johnson, S.W., and John S. Kent. This early church played a vital part in the religious, economic, and family life of the community. Other distinguished ministers served Lyles as the years passed and many of them raised preacher-sons who returned at times to speak at the old church.

“Sons of Lyles” who dedicated their lives to special Christian service include Isaac Luckado, Robert Lilly, James M. Kent, J. K. Pace, Wm. S. Kent, Wm. H. Ryals, J. W. Loving, Sparks W. Melton, Thomas H. Perkins, W. Mosby Seay, Philip H. Tomlinson, R. Edward Loving, and others. These men are a tribute to the men and women of the church who have made it possible for them to hear and answer the call of God.

From its formation, this Baptist group held regular worship services in other communities, and these “arms of Lyles” are noted in the early records: Bybees Road, noted as early as 1794; Fork Union, constituted a church in 1798; Goochland’s Mt. Gilead, mentioned as early as 1826. Other records show two more “arms,” Columbia Baptist Church at Mt. Prospect, 1842, and Beulah, 1860.

Early minutes tell of as many as 200 members who were colored. After 1870, with the help of the white members, they began to organize churches of their own, such as Byrd Grove and Evergreen.

For almost 200 years the Sunday School workers and church officers, all stalwart individuals, have, by precept and example, cast an ever-widening influence. There was a Sunday School here as early as 1835. In 1847 a school was built behind the church which served a large portion of the county. They maintained an early library and later awarded an annual college scholarship. In keeping with their progressive tradition, an educational building was added in 1956. A long line of dedicated members of Lyles in the teaching profession in schools and colleges have been the stepping-stones to higher education for the youth of Fluvanna.



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN 1784 the State Assembly disestablished the former Established Church. This church was reorganized in 1785 as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia.

Before 1835, Bishop Meade states that "only Episcopalians in Fluvanna were the Carys and the Cockes, then later the Galts, Archibald Harrison, Mr. Bryan, and Mr. Brent."

In 1825 the "Brick Union," Fork Union Church, was built for worship by the Episcopalians, the Baptists, the Methodists, and the Presbyterians. On the formation of the Corinth Hill Church, a group of Episcopalians and Presbyterians moved there with the Baptists. Episcopalians also worshipped in a union church at Columbia.

In May 1847, members of the Episcopal Church in and around the village of Columbia met and organized the Rivanna Parish. A church was built and consecrated in 1850, St. John's.

In 1857 the Rectory was completed near Dixie at a cost of \$3,000, a munificent sum in these days and evidence of pre-war prosperity.

The Parish now contains two churches, St. John's Church at Columbia and Grace Memorial at Bremo Bluff. A third church at Palmyra, was moved to Charlottesville. The first church at Bremo was the slave chapel moved from the Bremo Estate. This is now used as the parish house and services are held in the Memorial Church.



*St. John's Episcopal Church, Columbia, Virginia*



## PRESBYTERIANS

THE early Protestant groups in Fluvanna had only one "Meeting House" in a community, and all shared it, with each group having a Sunday allotted to them to hold services.

When General Cocke built the brick "Union Church" in 1824 in what is now "Fork Union," the Presbyterians met there one Sunday a month. Early Presbyterians in Columbia met in the Meeting House which had been moved from the Point of Fork Estate of David Ross. Joseph Bruce of "Meanwell" deeded land for this Meeting House between Fayette Street and the Creek to the Baptists, Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians. The deed specifies that the "Baptist shall have use of the building from Wednesday before first Sunday until Tuesday night thereafter; the Episcopalians from Wednesday before the second Sunday, etc." Methodist records show they worshipped in Columbia as early as 1832 and the diary of Elder Poindexter Patterson Smith tells he organized a Baptist Church there in 1840.

During the Civil War a group of Presbyterians met in the Courthouse in Palmyra. After the War Rivanna Presbyterian Church was formed in 1881, and they erected a house of worship in 1882 southeast of Wilmington near the present Columbia District School. Before this building was completed they met by invitation in the Goshen Church of the Disciples. Rivanna then offered the use of their new building to the Baptists and the Methodists who were replacing their old buildings. This church became inactive and the building was taken down about 1945, leaving only the quiet secluded cemetery.

On March 26, 1909, land was deeded to a group of Presbyterians in Fork Union for the erection of a house of worship. This church is the only one in Fluvanna today and shares its minister with Arvonia and Trinity in Buckingham County.



## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



WILLIAM WAKEHAM, SR., a devout Catholic, came to this country from Ireland. Upon his home lot in Columbia was built St. Joseph's Catholic Church. At his death his house was left for the Catholic priests.

In conjunction with St. Joseph's Church, a mission school for colored children was conducted for forty-seven years by Mrs. Lydia Nicholas, a colored woman from New York.

For her work and leadership in her school, the church, and the community, she won the respect of all. Mrs. Nicholas, who was fundamental and thorough in all that she did, was devoted to the Catholic Church. For the faithful services, Lydia was awarded the first papal medal given in the Virginia Diocese. This medal was presented by Bishop Ireton in behalf of Pope Pius XII in 1951.



## OTHER CHURCHES

### BAPTIST:

POPULAR SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH, deed dated 1802, building no longer in existence.

ANTIOCH, November 14, 1858 (founded)

BEAVERDAM, constituted October 30, 1831

BETHEL, 1853. "arm" of Fork Union.

UNION GROVE, deed of 1865, inactive (near Rising Sun).

FLUVANNA, about 1853.

PRICE'S MEETING HOUSE, Palmyra, in existence in 1840.

FOX MEMORIAL, most recent Baptist organization.

OAK GROVE, extinct.

MEMORIAL BAPTIST, Columbia, 1853.

METHODIST: BLEDSOE'S CHAPEL, between Hardware and Scottsville, in existence around 1856 — Berea Chapel, Scottsville.

GOSHEN: CHRISTIAN, first church of Disciples was at Wilmington, near Evergreen — land deeded 1859.

UNION CHURCH: BOYD'S TAVERN.

UNITED BRETHREN: CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, near Central Plains, used by the Primitive Baptist.



F L U V A N N A S C H O O L S

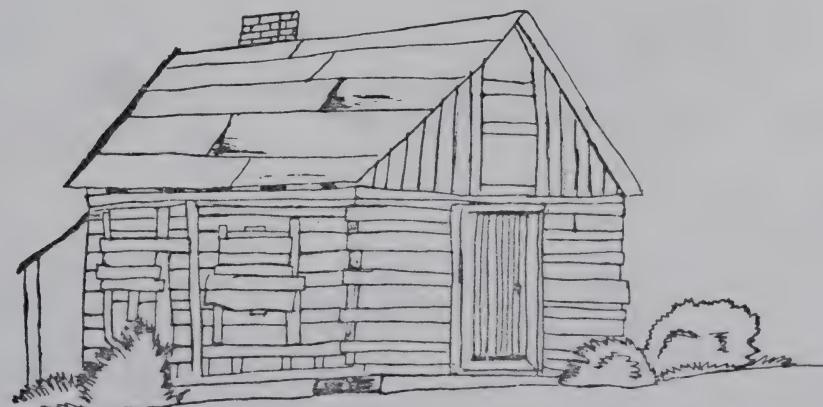
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THE EARLIEST settlers in Fluvanna maintained schools of the tutorial or family type. The first land grants required that three out of every fifty acres be cleared, which necessitated families be settled in the "wilderness" to carry out this requirement.

Out of the tutorial system grew the private academy. The landed proprietor who engaged a tutor for his own boys would permit the sons of his genteel neighbors to come to school. Much real culture could be absorbed from these refined homes in addition to the music, the French, the Latin and the mathematics.

Later the neighbors would unite and employ a teacher to hold a school in an unused building, thus the origin of the "Old Field School." Sometimes a scholarly gentleman or a pastor would open a school in his own home and teach it himself, thus the "Pastor's School."

Many academies were opened throughout the county as time went on. The first seemed to have been at Recess, where cost of candles was an item of expense. Other academies were: The Columbia Academy, Edgewood near Palmyra, Tudor and Lafayette Hill at Troy, Mr. Miller's near Wilmington, Mrs. Walter Jones' near Dixie, White Rock at Carysbrook, Austin White's at Fork Union, and another at Bremo.



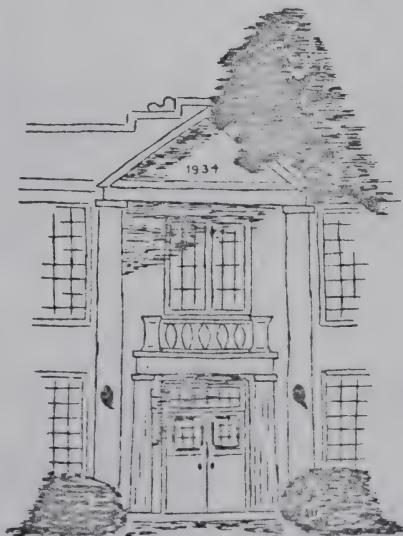


Much information is available for Fluvanna Female Institute, started in 1855 at Winnsville where "A.B. was offered for completion of a collegiate course in Mathematics, Moral Philosophy, Natural Science and one of the languages. An A.M. if in addition to the university course three languages were completed." The regulations for the young ladies were as follows: "The young ladies connected with the Institute are not allowed to receive the attention of young gentlemen nor to carry on clandestine correspondence under any pretence whatever.

"Visitors are to be permitted only if the girls are sent for by their parents, and parents are earnestly urged to remember that it is utterly impossible for pupils to make progress whose minds are frequently diverted by holiday recreations and the dissipation of fashionable society."

In 1870 came the public schools in Virginia. Under the superintendency of J. O. Shepherd, P. J. Winn, and John B. Haden, the free schools gained favor with the people.

A great era in high school work in Fluvanna came in 1886-1887. Judge Shepherd got through the General Assembly of Virginia an act making the Central High School at Palmyra the first legally accredited high school in the county . . . the first accredited rural high school in Virginia. Accreditation of this school meant that Fluvanna had a licensed preparatory school for the University of Virginia. The school was endorsed by Charles S. Venable, Chairman of the





Faculty of the University of Virginia. He said that the Central High School established a connecting link between the primary and the higher education in the state system of public schools.

By 1922 Fluvanna was in danger of losing accreditation because the three high schools then in operation did not fulfill the standards set up by the State Board of Education. In 1922-23 the county operated thirty-four schools for whites, ranging from one to three rooms. Eighty dollars was the annual per capita expenditure for the high school instruction and \$15 for the elementary.

Under the Superintendency of Joseph P. Snead, the School Board decided on consolidation of the high school and accepted a tract of land offered by Charles E. Jones for the building at Carysbrook.

Gradually has followed the consolidation of the elementary schools until there is only one school in each of the four districts.

The Negroes have a consolidated high school, the "Abrams High," named in honor of the Negro supervisor who worked so effectively for it; and the consolidated elementary school, the Central, the most up-to-date building in the county. Both of these schools are on Rt. 649 near Bethel Church.

## FORK UNION MILITARY ACADEMY

WHEN one sees the numerous handsome buildings and beautifully landscaped campus of Fork Union Military Academy stretching over the rolling acres of Fluvanna, it is difficult to visualize its simple, indeed humble, beginnings in a rented cottage. Like so many great achievements, it had its origin in the brain of a man desirous of helping others. However, realization of the idea did not suddenly spring into being, but required the cooperation and assistance of many others before practical obstacles could be overcome and the Academy opened.

In 1896, Dr. William E. Hatcher, pastor of Grace Street Baptist Church in Richmond, built a summer home (to quote his words) "in a quiet, straggling village, known, so far as it was known at all, as Fork Union . . . and there grew in my heart a desire to be of some substantial service to the community. The people were agricultural for the most part, intelligent above the ordinary, and full of kindness . . ." The idea of a school had been revolving in his mind for some time, and after discussing it with various friends, in September





1898 he called a meeting of the citizens of Fork Union and placed before them the project of opening a school the following month, if \$500 could be guaranteed for a seven-month session. The idea took like wildfire among these people who wanted further education for their children without having to undergo the expense, which they could ill afford, of sending them away to obtain it. The guarantors were immediately secured, a vacant house rented, and a teacher engaged by Dr. Hatcher.

The names of the guarantors should be always remembered, for without them there would today be no Fork Union Military Academy. They were Dr. Hatcher, Capt. Charles G. Snead, William P. Snead, W. Frank Snead, George M. Bashaw, Rufus J. Snead, Benjamin H. Snead, W. H. Sadler, Cornelius P. Snead, Mrs. Zadie V. Kie, Gilmer J. Snead, and W. W. Hughes.

Julian P. Martin was the principal and teacher of the nineteen boys and girls who enrolled for the first session and lived or boarded in the village. The following May a commencement was celebrated before a large crowd assembled to hear Andrew J. Montague (later Governor and Congressman) deliver the commencement address, and to share in the festivities of the unusual occasion.

So pleased were the guarantors with the success of the first session, that they pledged a thousand dollars for a second year, engaged an additional teacher, and issued a catalogue. Would that there were space to reproduce that first catalogue! It was a closely printed penny postal, signed by Dr. Hatcher, and sent not only to parents in Fluvanna but to other friends of the signer, and it brought forty-six boys and girls to the Academy for the second session.

With the promise of a still larger enrollment in 1900, a building was erected to house the boys, and provide suitable classrooms, offices



and an assembly room, while "Mrs. Saunders was directed to open a boarding house for the girls." Later an armory was built. As we look back upon those two crude frame buildings, standing treeless and stark on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. William P. Snead, it is hard to realize how much they meant to the community and students, and what sacrificial giving made their erection possible. Both were later destroyed by fire.

When the Academy introduced military training in 1902, girls as well as boys were put into uniform, and in 1904, after careful inspection, the War Department detailed an officer to take over military discipline and training, with the result that Fork Union Academy became Fork Union Military Academy. Today there are two officers and five senior non-commissioned officers of the U. S. Army on the military staff. Coeducation was gradually discontinued, but the enrollment increased until it reached 192 for the session of 1911-1912.

After the death of Dr. Hatcher in 1912, the community raised what was for it a phenomenal sum to pay off debts and save the Academy under the leadership of Capt. Charles G. Snead, and persuaded the Baptists of Virginia to assume ownership of the institution and give it place among the Baptist schools. Even then the Academy saw difficult days, particularly during the war and the subsequent depression, although it has always been fortunate in having devoted, unselfish friends. In spite of the fire, scarcity of money and changing administrations, the Academy held to its high standards and has gone steadily forward, especially since 1930, when Dr. J. J. Wicker was appointed by the Baptist Board of Education to take charge. Dr. Wicker was not only a minister of the gospel, but a practical man of business with unusual administrative ability, and under his vigorous direction the Academy became a large, beautiful, functional institution, with upper and lower schools. Today, under the direction of his son, Colonel J. Caldwell Wicker, it has an enrollment of nearly 700 boys.

The large student body furnishes students to colleges all over the country; its athletic teams are famous for their prowess; its military appearance is of the highest order; its alumni have distinguished themselves in both business and the professions. In short, the Fork Union Military Academy is an institution of which its alumni, the Baptists, and the Commonwealth of Virginia are proud.

— VIRGINIA DEMOTT COX



## F L U V A N N A      N E G R O E S

To show the part that Negroes have had in Fluvanna history, the work of two Negro men, born during "slavery times," and selections from Fluvanna writers have been chosen.

John Jasper was the twenty-fourth child of a slave couple on the Peachy Estate in Fluvanna County. His mother was a leader among the women, and his father, Philip Jasper, a preacher. As a boy, he did the usual jobs on the farm; as a man he was a stemmer in a tobacco factory in Richmond and a miner of coal in Chesterfield County.

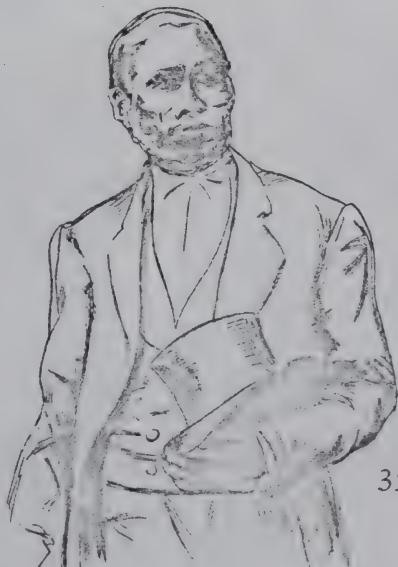
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He obtained an education entirely by his own efforts and became a pastor in Petersburg, then in the First Baptist Church in Richmond.

His sermon, "De Sun Do Move," brought him before the people.

His greatness went beyond this speech and such has been the interest in John Jasper that three full-length biographies, two university studies and numerous newspapers have been written about him.

The second man, James D. Barrett, was born free in Louisa in 1820, but worked for years as minister and shoemaker among the Negroes of Fluvanna. He represented Fluvanna in the Constitutional Convention between 1867-1868, but returned to his ministry in saying that "religion and politics do not mix." He is buried at Thessalonica.



"I would like to say something of the good 'uncles' and 'aunts' and 'cousins' that I loved and trusted and enjoyed. They were proud of their 'white folks.' Uncle Jack and others often talked to me about what my folks did not do, when they thought I might go wrong and bring discredit on my family. These good souls did not have what we call education, but they thought about what they heard. Often they boiled it down to the very essence which they could put in a few simple words. Their clear vivid statements of basic ideas were striking in their originality and made lasting impressions on me. These bits of concentrated wisdom have steadied and guided me in many a difficult situation," —

DR. RICHARD EDWARD LOVING (In his "Fluvanna of Yesteryears" at the Palmyra Courthouse, County Festival in 1957.)



"The Negroes were trustworthy and faithful to their charge during the awful years of the War. There were many noble deeds and touching scenes of devotion among the two races. During the long years of readjustment and poverty in the South, the former owners divided their little with the needy and sick ex-slaves. Doctors treated them free, druggists gave them long credits until the dawning of a better day came out of the gloom."

"Now it is a new era for the Southern Negro. They have the opportunities of higher education in colleges and universities. They have justice in the courts and the right to vote. Many are successful farmers and property owners. Opportunities for good citizenship are open to them. There is plenty of room in the broad, untried areas of the Southland for the two races to promote good citizenship together."

— *Things I Remember*, by SALLIE SADLER CLEVELAND (1948)

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## NEGRO CHURCHES

### BAPTIST:

BYRD GROVE, oldest Negro church in the county, was constituted from members who withdrew from Lyles in 1872. They have put a brick veneer on this old building; it is now an attractive house.

CLOVER DALE, COLUMBIA, EVERGREEN, NEW FORK, RISING MT.  
ZION, SHILOH, ST. JAMES, GALILEE (inactive).

UNION BAPTIST, organized in 1878; WEST BOTTOM, THESSALONIA.  
NEW FORK, SHILOH, 1868; HOLMHEAD.

### WEST BOTTOM

### METHODIST: HADEN'S CHAPEL

HOLINESS: HOLY ROCK, of Sanctified extraction, organized rather recently and Burning Bush.



EARLY FLUVANNA TOWNS

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## BARNESBURGH

BARNARDS (locally called Barnesburgh) was the oldest town in Fluvanna, formed by Act of General Assembly in 1796. It was quite a business center and for many years head of the canal. Here were important locks, a state tobacco warehouse, stores, shops and the first flour mill on the Rivanna.

Red Hills, the "big house," was the house of Bernard, the Burgomaster. The village was located at the foot of the hill to the south of the house and was partly made up of log houses and partly of houses that were caves with log fronts.

On the point of the hill was the stone fort which was later used as a jail. In the flat below the fort was the gallows tree, a large oak. In 1826 there was an old woman who remembered hearing the bugle call up at the fort and seeing the local military drill on the flat near the gallows tree.

Captain Reuben Boston, who bought the property in 1826, was a man of considerable affairs and was an important figure in the development of this section. The Effort Church was the church of the Bostons.

During the War Between the States, Fontain Boston was a prisoner in Philadelphia and Colonel Reuben Boston was killed at the Battle of High Ridge near Farmville. Colonel Boston is thought to have been the last Confederate officer killed, as word of Lee's surrender came a few minutes later. His picture hangs in Battle Abbey.

## UNION MILLS OF 130 YEARS AGO

UNION MILLS, situated on the left bank of the Rivanna, on the post road twenty-five miles from Columbia and sixteen miles from Charlottesville, is in the midst of beautiful mountain and river scenery.

At this place there are located a merchant mill, grist and saw mill, and cotton factory called the Virginia Union Factory. This factory, owned by Messrs. Timberlake and Magruder, is a large brick build-



ing; it runs 1,500 spindles, besides the necessary machinery for carding. It contains twelve power looms in which several hundred yards of substantial cloth are made per day. The cotton yarn of this establishment is in high repute throughout the state.

More than one hundred operatives are employed by the enterprising proprietors in different departments of their establishment.

The place contains comfortable houses for the accommodation of eighteen or twenty families, a tan yard, and a Methodist house of worship, besides the elegant dwellings of the proprietors.

Union Hall, an attractive old home located high on a hill above the Rivanna River, is (in 1963) the only house standing of what was once the thriving town of Union Mills. It is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Irving.

## C O L U M B I A

COLUMBIA, incorporated in 1897, is Fluvanna's only town. It was established on the lands of David Ross, whose possession stretched far and wide. The act establishing the town reads:

"Be it enacted by the General Assembly that the 150 acres of land at the confluence of the Fluvanna and the Rivanna commonly called point of fork are hereby vested in Thomas Pleasants, Thomas Fleming Bates, Robert Lewis, Sr., George Thompson, Tunstall Quarles, Samuel Richardson, and Duncan McLaughlin trustees to be laid off in lots with convenient streets and shall establish a town by the name of Columbia."

A lot was sold on the condition that the purchaser build a dwelling on it at least 16 feet square with chimneys of brick or stone.

People have said that if George Washington and Lafayette would come back to Fluvanna, Columbia would be the only town they would recognize. More is the pity the town could not have remained unchanged, but the tavern in which those notable visitors were entertained has been torn down and many other interesting buildings have gone.

Columbia has only glimpsed an industrial world and has never been caught in the bustle for long. Tradition furnishes much of the color of the town. However, it is known that Columbia came within a few votes of being the capital of the state when the capital was moved inland in 1788-89, but because the town was not on navigable waters the site was rejected.





If the vote had been postponed 50 years, "not navigable waters" would not have applied, for the James River-Kanawha Canal was built in the early 1800's issuing in the interesting era of the packet boats and increasing the shipping of freight until Columbia became a "port." In 1879 the building of the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad (later the C & O) came to end the importance of the canal, though freight was sent up the Rivanna to Carysbrook through 1907.

In 1835, Columbia contained twenty dwellings, four mercantile stores, one house of public worship free to all denominations, one common school, two tailors, three boot and shoe factories, two cabinet makers, one wheelwright, one house carpenter, and one smith shop. The population was eighty-five whites, fifty-four free colored people, and thirty-eight slaves.

Business slowed down as the railroad lost its importance, leaving Columbia a quiet little country town.



## WILMINGTON

COMMUNITIES thrive or die according to the main arteries of freight and passenger travel. Traffic on the rivers, shipping and trading, created early Fluvanna settlements. Wilmington was a busy center because of the Stagecoach Road, the branch canal on the Rivanna and Rivanna Mills. Cole's Tavern, Currin's Tavern, stables for



stagecoach horses, blacksmith shop, and wheelwright shops all catered to the passing traffic bound for Charlottesville, Columbia, or the Courthouse. Many of the old shops are gone, but the post office still stands. This weathered building of stone and beaded weatherboarding has housed the post office, a store, the Silas Seay family, and a feed mill.

Small industries contributed to the growth of Wilmington: a tobacco factory (smoking and chewing), broom factory, brick kiln, and a cabinet-maker's shop. (As was the rule, the cabinet-maker was also the coffin-maker, each coffin made to order.)

Not only did Wilmington have a very early church and school, but it established itself as a lasting center of cultural and social life. The residents' gracious reception of Lafayette was typical, and it was such people as these who made possible the unique Wilmington Women's Club, and other activities including the present Community Recreation Hall. This well-built center was the first of its kind in Fluvanna.

In 1827 a motion was made to move the Courthouse and build a new commodious one. Some citizens wanted it to remain at the same location; others favored Palmyra, and still others, Wilmington. An act was passed by the General Assembly on the 18th day of February, 1828, authorizing an election to determine the site of the new Courthouse. An election was held in May, 1828, which resulted in 742 votes; 217 for the old site, 283 for Palmyra, and 242 for Wilmington. As neither site received the necessary number of votes, the General Assembly called another election which was held in June, 1828. This resulted in ninety-two





votes being cast for Palmyra and forty-seven for Wilmington. The small vote was explained by the old timer who said that a Palmyra politician toured the county with a buggy load of whiskey and shoes and won either silence or votes by gifts of shoes to the ladies and liquor to the men!

Wilmington today has the aura of a dowager queen; charming, hospitable and serene.

### KENT'S STORE

Records give Chapel Hill as the first post office kept in connection with a local store. Wood's map of 1820 shows Holland's store; no one living knows anything about it. There was a small store at the crossroads owned by James M. Kent in 1845. The date of removal of the post office to the store of James M. Kent is uncertain. Though this store is now owned by the Kirkpatricks, the town of Kents has not changed its name.

G. A. H. Kent was postmaster while his father was in the Civil War. There he served for seventy-five years either as assistant or as postmaster.

It is interesting that the first glass window panes in Fluvanna were used in a story and a half house near the store. Taxes were less on this type building. The house was probably pre-Revolutionary and lasted 150 years.

Over the road to the north was a splendid forest of oaks that served as shade or protection from wind in the winter to the patient animals that brought their owners from their homes and then were







forgotten while their owners shopped and had social hours with friends and new acquaintances.

A person traveling in 1870 was "astounded at the crowds of people." It was more than she had "ever seen in Columbia." In the late 1870's another visit was made there and "the woods and roads were filled with horses, carriages, buggies, ox carts and people walking to the store."

Much goods was shipped out from Kent's to the James River and Kanawha Canal. It is told that the first consignment of goods from Columbia was hauled there in an ox cart. Hogsheads of tobacco were pulled through heavy mud by teams. Phillip Snoddy, who handled freight from the boats in Columbia, reported that more freight was sent out to Kent's Store than was distributed to all the merchants in Columbia. A long while after that, at least two four-mule wagons hauled produce and goods daily to and from Columbia.

## P A L M Y R A

OLD PALMYRA is shown on the map in this sketch book to distinguish the community around the original courthouse on the south-side of the Rivanna from the Palmyra community formed around the new courthouse in 1830.

According to the *Gazetteer of Virginia*, published by Jos. Martin of Charlottesville of 1836, "at Palmyra, seat of justice, situated on the Rivanna River, fourteen miles from its junction with the James, resides the county buildings, which are of brick and have been recently erected. It contains fourteen dwelling houses, one Methodist house of worship on the Court Green, one merchantile store, one tavern, one merchant grist mill, one woolen factory, two sad-





dlers, two tailors, one boot and shoe factory, one tanyard, one cabinet-maker and several carpenters and cooper."

"This village is thriving. County courts are held on the fourth Monday in every month, quarterly in March, June, August, and November.

"Judge Field holds his circuit superior court of Law and Chancery on the 1st of April and September."

In the survey of 1854 by W. Clark, Palmyra was laid off in lots and included an area of 125 acres in streets.

The streets of this survey provided for expansion, for Clay Street paralleled main streets with exit streets, Barnett and Wooling, or perhaps the town fathers provided future parking area. There are streets named for families still in Palmyra as Thomas and Shepherd Streets.

The people of Palmyra and other Fluvanna citizens take great pride in the County Court House, the Court Green, the Stone Jail and the Confederate Park. The public-spirited people, together, can prevent the mistakes often made in expansion, enhance the beauty of this public property and advance the original plans of design.





## FORK UNION

THE community of Fork Union developed as the Seays, Clements, and Andersons established their homes. Though the village is not shown on Wood's map of 1820 in the county clerk's office, it became in 1825 the center for the houses around, with the building of the "brick meeting house" on land granted to Abram Seay in 1765. The church building was originally used for worship by four denominations, the Episcopalians, the Methodists, the Baptists, and the Presbyterians. The name "Fork Union" evolved from the location of the town in the fork of the James and Rivanna and from the union of the churches.

The Fork Union of today presents a pleasant sight and has been a pleasant place to live for a long time. Many residents can remember the old days when "summer boarders" came from Richmond to occupy the rooms used by the academy boys during the winter. Now transients may find year-round accommodations, for there are motels a few miles out, and a hotel, a restaurant, and a motor court with a dining room within the town.

Fork Union still centers around the church. This building stands at the intersection of Routes fifteen and six, and, because of its serene beauty, attracts the attention of every passerby.



## ENTERTAINMENT



We had amusements, not such as you have, but pleasant to us. There were tournaments, when the conquering knight crowned the queen, and the event was celebrated with a dance. There were picnics during the summer, in some grove. The whole community turned out and brought a big dinner. Many of the young people danced on a platform made of undressed, uneven boards; a few of the more sinful ones waltzed. The churches and older ones frowned a bit on square dancing; waltzing was cause for church discipline if some one would bring it up at the Saturday church meeting — R. E. LOVING

THERE were quilting parties for the ladies in the day; the men arrived at night for dancing and escorted them home — if in winter, on horseback or in sleighs.

There were cotton-picking parties at night for men and women. At ten-thirty the work stopped and there was dancing till midnight. The cotton was piled on the hearth in front of a fire of red-hot coals so the seeds could be easily picked out.

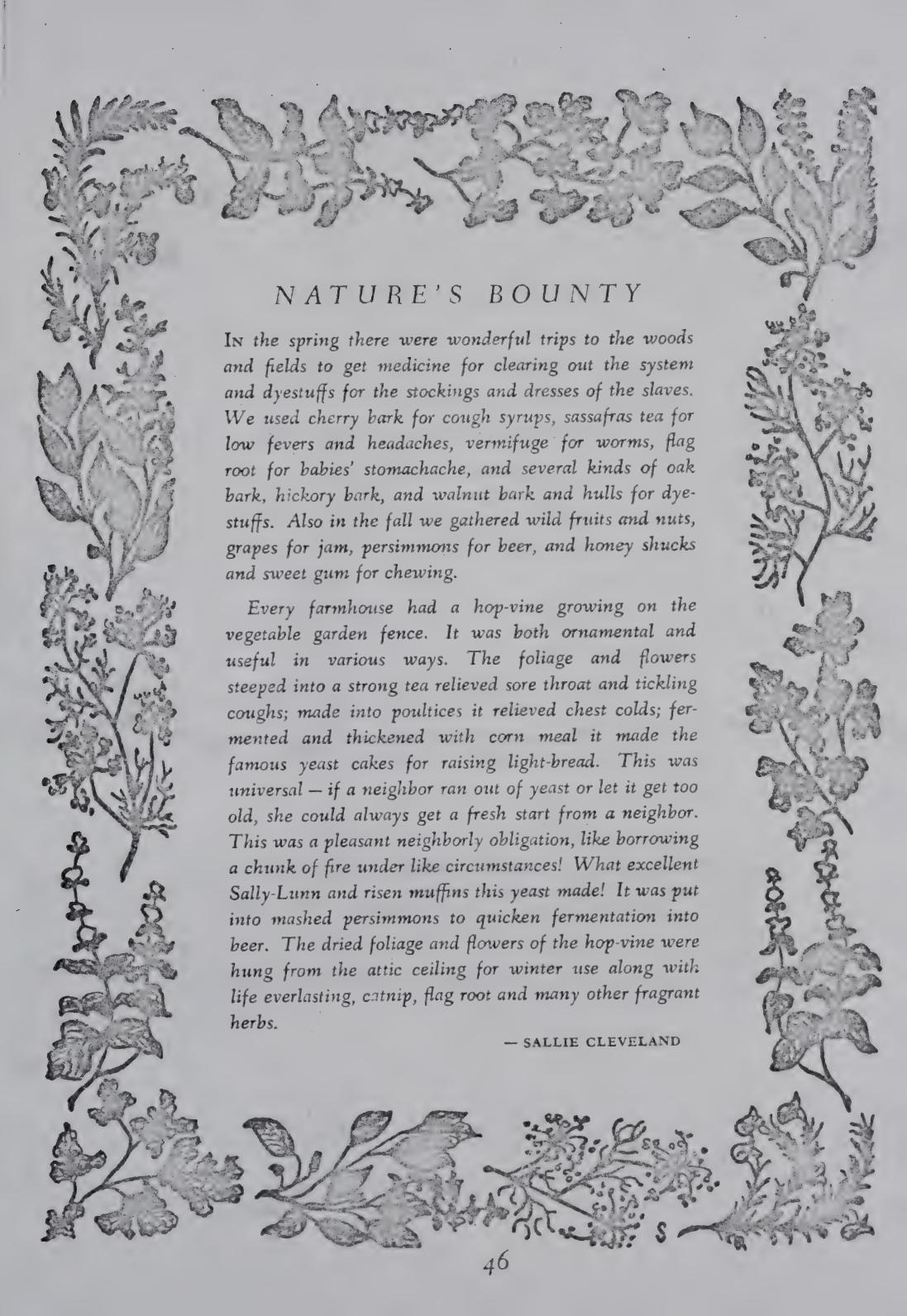
Corn-shucking parties were more laborious for men. The ladies were present to wait on them with cool, sweet cider and persimmon beer as they worked, and to prepare the big supper in the yard at midnight when the shucking was over.

These home parties were most enjoyable. So many different kinds of games were played: the rollicking, amusing ones were more popular than written contests that required serious thought.

The home dances were delightful. In square dances there were eight or ten couples on the floor doing pretty figures — many of them intricate with low bowings and quick promenading quadrilles without a mistake. The Schottische was graceful with smooth gliding across the room with couples in diagonal movements. Choosing partners was exhilarating. The last figure was always the Virginia Reel, whose intricate steps were carried on until the last minute of the time. The fun and comradeship of these parties was most enjoyable for entire families.

— SALLIE CLEVELAND





## NATURE'S BOUNTY

IN the spring there were wonderful trips to the woods and fields to get medicine for clearing out the system and dyestuffs for the stockings and dresses of the slaves. We used cherry bark for cough syrups, sassafras tea for low fevers and headaches, vermifuge for worms, flag root for babies' stomachache, and several kinds of oak bark, hickory bark, and walnut bark and hulls for dye-stuffs. Also in the fall we gathered wild fruits and nuts, grapes for jam, persimmons for beer, and honey shucks and sweet gum for chewing.

Every farmhouse had a hop-vine growing on the vegetable garden fence. It was both ornamental and useful in various ways. The foliage and flowers steeped into a strong tea relieved sore throat and tickling coughs; made into poultices it relieved chest colds; fermented and thickened with corn meal it made the famous yeast cakes for raising light-bread. This was universal — if a neighbor ran out of yeast or let it get too old, she could always get a fresh start from a neighbor. This was a pleasant neighborly obligation, like borrowing a chunk of fire under like circumstances! What excellent Sally-Lunn and risen muffins this yeast made! It was put into mashed persimmons to quicken fermentation into beer. The dried foliage and flowers of the hop-vine were hung from the attic ceiling for winter use along with life everlasting, catnip, flag root and many other fragrant herbs.

— SALLIE CLEVELAND





## STAGECOACH ROADS AND TAVERNS

There are many old roads in Fluvanna, many of which are still used; the Secretary Road, the Martin Road, the Courthouse Road and the Stagecoach or Post Road. These early roads were narrow, rough, ungraded roads that bumped and wound through virgin forests where tall trees met overhead. Many an old roadbed can be seen on hills and ridges where stagecoaches lumbered through mud in winter and dust in summer.

As early as 1786, there were stagecoaches operating regularly carrying mail, passengers and baggage north and south through the colonies. The coaches were often held up by droves of cattle, and accidents were frequent. Sometimes an axle-tree took fire due to the lack of grease and the top-heavy conveyance often upset. Pine tar was used in place of grease on the wagons and "cakes and tar" were advertised on route. Stage sickness resulted from the swaying motion, and a "small piece of opium and similar piece of gum camphor" were advertised to help stage sickness. To fight the cold,



passengers rented heated bricks at the way stations for ten cents a brick.

If we could have sat in a high tree beside the road, who would we have seen pass by? A barefoot boy, a squire on horseback, fine ladies in carriages, slaves rolling hogsheads of tobacco, a farmer in an oxcart, and a mule loaded with corn bound for the nearest grist mill. We might have caught a glimpse of Layfayette riding in General Cocke's fine carriage, escorted by the Fluvanna Militia under the command of Col. Stephen Joseph Perkins, or have seen Thomas Jefferson ride by on his way to his farm "Elk Hill," or on his way to a session of the General Assembly. It was over this road that Tarleton returned in 1781 after trying to capture Governor Jefferson and the members of the Assembly at Charlottesville.

The inns along these roads were called "taverns" or "ordinaries" as the English word "inn" was not so popular after the Revolution. The ordinary and tavern, though similar, were different in many ways. In the ordinary, occupied by men, one seldom took off his clothes to sleep in the floor or on up-slanted slab-planks with foot rests. The taverns had bedrooms, where often one was set aside for the women and one for the men. Meals were served at these hostels or liquid refreshments while the tired worn horses were changed for fresh ones.

We stop at the "junction of the stages" to see the old Weaver Tavern. Further back than anyone knows, this tavern was built.

The strangest thing about the building is the corner staircase ending over the fireplace in the tavern room. The three sturdy chimneys are of rough rock and mortar. The upper parts are of brick because of later repairs.

In the side yard is a well 60 feet deep, 30 of which is cut through living rock. In the wall frame still hangs a water bucket.

Growing from between the roots of a big locust tree is a Harrison rose, a thorny yellow rose, over a hundred years old.

— *Excerpts, Essay, BETTIE FRANCES MCGEHEE*

"Stagecoach Road," a prize-winner,

Daughters of American Revolution Contest





## THE RIVANNA RIVER

THOMAS JEFFERSON, in 1763, saw the possibility of using the Rivanna River as a means of transportation. He raised 200 pounds to make the river navigable.

The canoe was the first boat used. It was light and swift and suited a small stream like the Rivanna. However, it was too light to carry heavy loads. The Rev. Robert Rose of St. Anne's Parrish discovered that two canoes tied together could carry eight or nine hogsheads safely.

The batteaux were flat-bottom boats, some fifty feet long and seven feet wide. These boats came of importance during the horse boat period. The paths can still be seen along the banks of the river where the horses and mules walked as they pulled the boats.

From 1880 to 1886, a canal boat propelled by steam power, was operated by the late William Ronald Cocke of Greenwood in Fluvanna. The power for this steamboat was supplied by a Farquhar engine used for threshing wheat and oats and sowing barley. This boat provided sleeping quarters for the small crew along with cooking facilities. Though no special facilities were provided for passengers, a few were always aboard. The stove has been taken from this boat, which sank off of Lanford and is now in the Fluvanna Museum.



After the organization of the Rivanna Navigation Company in 1805, Milton was head of navigation. To this spot came produce from Albemarle and the valley of Virginia and flour from Mr. Jefferson's mills. Fluvanna grew a hard type of wheat, which was much in demand when made into flour, due to its ability to withstand heat in shipments across the equator. The return loads brought back things not produced at home: salt, sugar, spices, coffee, and whiskey and rum, though apparently, there was no shortage of the last two at home.

In the thirty-two miles to Columbia, there was a drop of one hundred and eighteen feet with twelve dams and seventeen locks.

In 1848, came the Central Virginia to Charlottesville and that meant the end of river transportation to Charlottesville.

Today, as one views the muddy little stream which cuts across Albemarle and Fluvanna, it is hard to realize that for the better part of a century it was for those counties a center of industry and an artery of commerce.

The Rivanna still flows on perhaps not doing so many useful things as in the past, but dear to the heart of every Fluvannian.

— *Prize Winning Essay by ELOISE BELL*

## THE JAMES RIVER CANAL

THE DREAMS of uniting the East and the West by connecting the James and the Kanawha Rivers by a canal was furthered by the organizing of the James River Company in 1825. This project was taken over in 1820 by the state with Claudius Crozet, chief engineer. The canal was completed to Maiden's Adventure by 1825. In 1835 the James and Kanawha Company was formed and the aqueduct built across the Rivanna.







By 1840, Lynchburg was reached. A total of 146.5 miles of canal was thus completed, with 52 lift locks, 22 of cutstone and 30 of rubble masonry, 12 dams, 11 aqueducts and 133 farm and pond bridges. The width of the canal was from 50 feet at the top to 30 feet at the bottom and five feet deep.

In 1851, when the canal was completed to Buchanan, the cost was about \$14,000,000. This year was also the peak in canal transportation. About 75 deck boats, 66 open boats, and 54 batteaux were hauling freight. Four hundred twenty-five horses and mules were needed to handle the transportation. The passenger packet boats took 33 hours for the run to Lynchburg and 31 hours for the return. The cost of the ticket was \$7.50.

Mrs. Charles E. Demott, daughter of Dr. W. E. Hatcher of Fork Union, writes of the trip taking 21 hours for the 55 miles from Richmond to Columbia. She said, "No smoother form of transportation is imaginable."

Surely it must have been a "tranquil journey, the moonlight night filled with the singing of the slaves, their banjos strumming, fill these jewelled river banks." Occasionally, the cry of "low bridge" from the canal men, and the person dreaming on the boat top must duck. Or the sound of a horn would be heard raucous and coarse, if from the packet, but sweet and plain, if from the freight.

The day of the canal was over in 1880-1881 when the railroad came. The waterway in the Columbia aqueduct became the road for the horses and vehicles, the tow path, the roadbed for the train tracks. Many were the tales of a train coming as a person was driving across. Of course, the horse "pitched and rared" and the story grew with the telling.



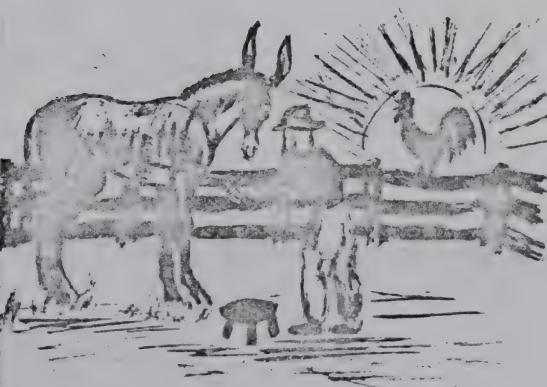
After the highway to Columbia was changed, the aqueduct, which the Yankees could not blow up, was destroyed. This structure of great hand-hewn blocks and hand-fitted stone was a famous landmark, but C & O tore it down because it blocked debris from the flood.



## SONGS AND SAYINGS

"SHOW me a nation's songs and I will show you the nation." When we look at the folklore of Fluvanna, we see a group of people — religious, cheerful, independent — living close to the soil, with a shrewd sense of humor:

Mr. Thompson knew  
When the rooster crowed  
That the day was about to break;  
He curried that mule  
With a three-legged stool  
And slicked him down with the rake!  
And the mule went haw-he! Haw-he! —  
O let that mule alone. . .





There were county-based sayings to be taken with a grain of salt but full of meaning for the local citizens:

“How’s your coporosity promulgating?”

“Come in, Brother Sam, and have supper with us. We can see what the neighbors have sent in.” — “Well, I think I will; every time you eat away from home you save a quarter.”

A rebuke to a heedless heir: “Your head is like a cymlin!” (Every country child knew how seeds rattled in a dried cymlin!)

In the old days married women were not called “Mrs. Smith,” but were called by their first name, as “Miss Janie,” or “Cousin Janie” (for Fluvanna was a close-knit family.) Wives addressed their husbands as “Mister,” and the broad “a” was very broad indeed. “Mr. Cyarter,” the lady of the house might say, “I see the Breath of Spring is blooming in the south corner of the gyarden.”

Back and back to the farm and the good country ways came the songs of Fluvanna:

*The land of cymlins, good corn-pone,  
Fried chicken, snaps, land of my own;  
Neighbors and kin, where'er I roam,  
Land of my sires -- Fluvanna, home!*

Or the “pretty fair maid” type song:

*I would not marry a blacksmith  
That smuts his nose and chin,  
I would not marry a sailor boy  
That sails through the wind,  
A farmer boy, a farmer boy,  
A farmer boy for me;  
If ever I get married,  
A farmer's wife I'll be!*

*Way down on the lowgrounds  
Ridin' o'er my farm;  
A blacksnake jumped from under a bush  
With an ashcake under his arm!*

Persimmons were an integral part of Fluvanna pride. We are told that Fluvanna boys at the University of Virginia delighted to



describe their county as "The State of Flu, where the 'simmons do grew." No doubt they sang, to the strumming of the banjo, making up words to suit the occasion or mood:

*I'm goin' down to town,  
Going down to town,  
Goin' down to Richmond-town  
To carry my 'backer' down!*

*I wouldn't marry a Fluvanna girl,  
I'll tell you the reason why:  
She's always up a 'simmon tree  
And that don't suit my eye!*

Songs about animals abound:

*Possum's up that 'simmon tree  
Ole hyar on the groun'  
Possum tell dat ole hyar  
'Gonna fling some 'simmons down!*

Religion played a large part in the lives of Fluvanna people. Choirs were organized and trained by such leaders as John Nicholas Perkins, Branche Bell and others. With no organ, they were taught to sight-read and many could even "set" a tune without a tuning fork.

Reverently, the sweet voices rose in harmony to old tunes, "Nearer My God to Thee," and

*Should I be carried to the skies  
On Flowery beds of ease  
While others strive to gain the prize  
And sail through bloody seas!*

Many had stern ideas about what was fitting in the House of the Lord and one outraged old gentleman stalked out, muttering as he left about a "fiddle in church"!

Dry humor crept into their religion, and it was the richer for this tie to earth. They had good care for the hereafter, but that, too, was touched with tongue-in-cheek humor:



*Beneath this wood  
Lies Poet Wood,  
One within the other;  
The outside wood  
We know is good —  
But doubtful is the other!*



We give you the citizen of Old Flu, who "ain't like nobody but himself."

— LELIA PERKINS HARLAND



### "THE CREAKING OLD MILL..."

THE EARLY grist mills of Fluvanna were small — one man operating each. However, they played an important part in the social, economic and political affairs of the community. Here the farmers would come with a sack of corn — as a rule on horseback. While the corn was being ground, they would meet in conversation on different topics; discussions often became so heated that they continued 'til the sun went down.

Before a water-powered mill could be located, the prospective owner was required to appear in court to secure a permit. This permit was duly recorded in the deed book. This was necessary to prevent flooding of his neighbor's land or a public road. On



# FLUVANNA HISTORICAL MAP





large streams, a provision was made so the fish could travel freely up or down. Many permits were dated before 1800; Kidd's Mill on the Hardware and a mill on Mechunk Creek date back as far as 1750.

A few mills on the Rivanna River were distributing points for foreign imports: sugar, molasses, coffee. Some of these were freighted west of the mountains. Solitude Mill (Wills' Mill), which still stands on the N.E. bank of the Cunningham Creek south of Palmyra, exported a flour which withstood tropical shipping. This mill also has historic interest. In the War Between the States, when Federal troops destroyed mills for miles around, a committee of women met with the Federal officers and stated that they would have no food if all mills were destroyed. Permission was granted for it to remain in operation.

Rivanna Mills (Stillman-Ashlin Mills) was a thriving center built at the end of the spur canal about 1816. Beautiful masonry remains in part of the dam and locks. The Cocke Mill and mill-pond at Upper Bremo, dated 1822, are still there, the native rock walls faded to lovely pastel shades. Payne's Mill on Oliver Creek (Little Mechunk) is the only water mill in Fluvanna still operating.

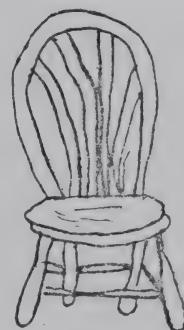
Most of the mills were of the over-shot type wheel — only a few of the other type. On the banks of the streams can still be seen fascinating remnants of these sturdy dams and locks, earthen races, enduring masonry foundations, mill wheels and old timbers. To mention one more: The mile-long race that brought water from Kent's Branch to the "John Adams Mill" on Byrd Creek can be seen, although it is known that the millhouse hasn't existed since around 1830. These and other mills can be located on the map.



## FLUVANNA GOES MODERN



AFTER THE WAR, the southern families realized the inconvenience of the yard kitchens, so they moved lean-tos or cabins to the dining room chimneys. The convenience called for another necessity — a cooking stove. A factory had been opened in Richmond. Whoever could bought stoves, to the delight of the housekeepers. Several years later the stove patterns were improved to become ranges with hot-water backs and warming closets above, and burning coal or wood as desired.



Lacking fleet-footed runners, the next great need was to improve the spring-water system. Wells near the kitchen seemed to be the solution. The country was scoured for well-diggers who claimed to be able to locate a water vein by some form of necromancy. They walked over the site carefully a certain number of times, holding in their hands a leafy twig from a certain tree, willow, I think. By its movements they decided to dig or not to dig. Such superstition was laughable, but often practiced. The windlass with chain was laborious until motor pumps were invented later.

— SALLIE CLEVELAND





## B R E M O

"LOWER BREMO" is an historic home in Fluvanna. The first part of the Lower Brevo house stands on land granted to the Cocke family by George IV of England in 1725, a grant to Richard Cocke. The family had been living in Tidewater, and Fluvanna was then a wilderness with wonderful hunting. Lower Brevo was built first as a small hunting lodge. Richard Cocke and his friends came up and hunted the deer and bear that abounded. General Cocke moved from Tidewater in 1801 and began building Recess, where he lived while building Upper Brevo, to which he moved in 1818. While building Upper Brevo, General Cocke seems to have made use of native materials as much as possible in his building projects.

"Upper Brevo was completed in 1819 by Gen. John Hartwell Cocke. Having become a friend and associate of Jefferson, the mansion at Brevo reflects directly the influence of Virginia's foremost statesman and architect," and the leaflet giving historic information about Brevo goes on to tell us: "Fiske Kimball says of Brevo: Of all the houses in the Jeffersonian tradition, it is Brevo which makes the deepest impression of artistic perfection. Calm, monumental and serene, it commands our emotion as a masterpiece of the art of form."

General Cocke was interested in many movements. He was a charter member of the African Liberian colonization, and to the promising young Negroes on his place he offered an education, freedom and payment of their passage to Liberia. They were taught the crafts, and the schoolroom where the children were taught can be seen at the present time in a wing of the Upper Brevo mansion. He was a keen and imaginative agriculturist, a master builder, and







far ahead of his times in much of his thinking. He was a close friend of Jefferson. He used the first contour terracing in America to control erosion. He was evidently a man of deep feeling. His first wife died in 1865 and is buried at Bremo Recess, and on her gravestone were engraved the words: "She who awakened her husband to a sense of the truth of Christianity." The cornerstone at Bremo contains this dedication:

"May the all wise disposer of events in Whose omniscient foresight it hath seemed good to forbid its dedication to her who perhaps I too much idolized, convey it into a temple wherein I may sacrifice all vain and worldly affections, and prepare myself by penitency, humility and devotion, an offering fit for the acceptance of the Eternal. And since it has pleased Almighty God to continue this estate in the possession of my forefathers from the first occupancy of this country by a civilized and Christian people, I beseech Him, that it may be handed down to my latest posterity, so long as they follow the example which I pray Him to assist me in setting throughout the remaining years He may graciously design my sojournment here — of hospitality without ostentation; justice and humanity towards all men, especially that unfortunate race of dependents, who, if neglected by their masters, are too frequently the victims of cruelty and misrule; a generous consideration of those to whom worldly goods have been less liberally dispensed; and high sense of public duties, and this more especially so long as the present government shall exist — emanating from all and administered for the good of all." — ANN CABELL

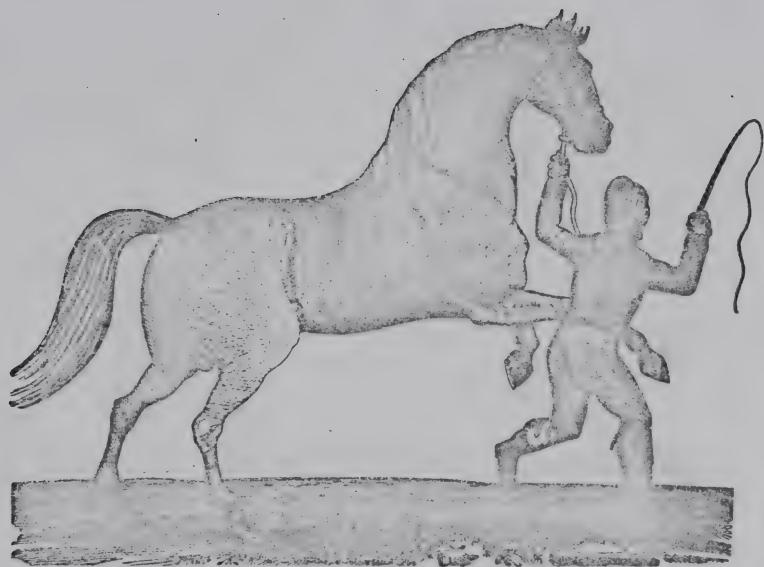
THE field stone stable near the Bremo mansion is constructed in the famous Jefferson colonial design with beautifully wrought chipped stone pillars. Had it been used as a courthouse, it would have been impressive. It is small wonder that travelers on the James River and Kanawha Canal in the old days stopped off to climb the hill and view the building. To show his gratitude for the turkeys sent him in 1824, Lafayette sent the convent bell which hangs in the clock tower.



*Cool water flowed from Jarratt Spring through this pitcher into the canal for the weary traveler.*







# CLEVELAND,

By the late Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin's Cleveland, selected as a Brood Horse with great care from that celebrated race of Coach Horses and Roadsters in England, long known under the term *Cleveland Bays*, and so fully descanted upon in all the treatises on the Breeds of England.

This Horse possesses the distinctive marks and characters of his race; his colour of the finest Blood Bay, of unusually stout Bone, strong Coat, and of the gentlest and most docile temper, fifteen hands three inches high. He came out of a double Roebuck Mare, and is a first rate pacer, 10 years old this Spring, and will Stand at BREMO, Fluvanna County, and be let to Mares at *Five Dollars*, if paid within the Season, or *Six Dollars* afterwards; *Ten Dollars* insurance; and *Twenty-five Cents* to the Groom.

Mares from a distance pastured at *Fifty Cents* a Week, and Grain feed at *Twenty Cents* a day.

WILLIAM ANCEL,  
*Agent for John H. Cocke.*



## CARYSBROOK

*Description and illustration  
by Charles E. Jones in  
brochure offering Carysbrook  
for sale in 1904.*



CARYSBROOK is one of the best known estates in Virginia and one of the oldest. There are two miles of river front which serves as a lawful fence and also makes a means of transportation to the railroad depot, Columbia, twelve miles by river and nine miles by road.

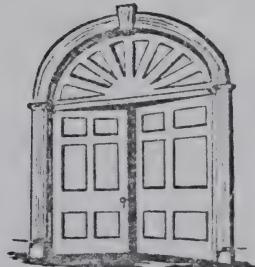
The C & O is under its charter to keep up navigation to Carysbrook or build a railroad to Carysbrook Dam. There is good water power at Carysbrook. If water power here isn't sufficient, there is fine water power at Palmyra, three and one-half miles above Carysbrook, and at Stilmans, seven miles below.

The original grant for this property was from the English Crown (about 6,000 acres) to one Miles Cary, Gentleman, thence to Archer Harrison, thence to Jno. Randolph Bryan, thence to the present owner. Extracts from the original grant are herewith given.

George the Second by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Kind defender of the faith . . . greetings know ye for divers good reasons and consideration buy more especially for and in consideration of the sum of three pounds of good and lawful money.

The patent, dated 1727, granted all woods, underwoods, swamps, marshes, low grounds, meadows, feedings, and due share of all veins, mines and quarries together with the privileges of hunting, fishing, hawking, and fowling.

The people of the section of the state are conservative and law abiding and unusually well educated, pleasant, and hospitable.





The fence laws of the section are that the owner must confine his pigs and sheep and goats, but other livestock may run at large.

Farm labor is paid \$10 to \$12 per person and house servants are paid \$3 to \$6. Good white tenants can be secured.

Here is a good location for some large manufacturing enterprise, which could use native white labor and be free from strikes.

PRICES:	Carysbrook (1,170 acres) .....	\$30,000
	Cattle Ranch (850 acres) .....	\$ 3,000
	Gold Mine Farm (400 acres) .....	\$ 2,100

1 1 1

Carysbrook is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Holland.

## CHATHAM PLANTATION



“CHATHAM PLANTATION” lies on the highland above a wide curve in the Rivanna, just across the River from “White Rock” at Carysbrook. The brick house stands surrounded by huge boxwood and wide, shaded lawns. Curving retaining walls outline the terraces and gnarled old osage orange trees, cedars, and elms shade the





grounds. To the east of the residence is the early outdoor kitchen with its huge fireplace, the dairy, the smokehouse, and a more recent guest house built of old logs.

The house has a two-room basement and two stories of brick laid in Flemish bond. A lovely fan-light crowns the double front doors. The tall windows on either side of the door each have eighteen old panes and over the west windows are two more fan-light windows in the gable. The cornices are brick, laid in "mousetooth" design.

In the central hall a graceful stairway with a balcony landing leads to the upstairs bedrooms. Wide "cross and Bible" doors open into spacious high-ceiling rooms. The marble fireplaces have elaborate hand-carved mantels and in the west room there are arched window alcoves on each side the chimney. The handsome panelled wainscoating is capped with dentil molding chair-rail. Such panelling and hand-carved woodwork all through the front part of the house, together with information gathered from deeds and wills date the front part of the house not later than 1795. The two-story brick "L" was added in 1804.

The tract of land on which this charming house stands was deeded to Elias Wills by Thomas Anthony in 1775. The deeds for the adjoining tracts purchased by Mr. Wills in 1777 state that this was part of a land grant of 1763. Elias Wills gave "Chatham Plantation" to his son, Benjamin D., who deeded it to Dr. John Wills of Louisa in 1793. Records in the Clerks Office show that this Dr. Wills lived at "Chatham," and a published genealogy of the family supplement these records to show that his son and grandson were also doctors of medicine.

In 1858 "Chatham Plantation" passed from the Wills family to Col. Geo. W. Pettit, who lived at nearby "Paxton." He was a widower with five children and married Widow Wood of "Willow Hill," who also had five children. They reared these ten children at "Chatham," plus six more who were born within the sheltering arms of the old house.

Each owner has left his mark upon this historic home. The old walls have known generations of Fluvannians who have moved on leaving "Chatham" in the quiet sunlit countryside to gather mellowness and charm.

*Present owners: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Blodgett.*





## GLEN BURNIE

IN 1817 Miles Cary built the brick house, "Glen Burnie," for his maiden sisters. There is a legend that he started to build on a high bluff overlooking the Rivanna River; but after starting the digging of the foundations, he changed his mind and built the house in a protected glen near Palmyra.

Each of the first- and second-floor rooms has a fireplace with hand-made mantles, while those on the third floor are built in the corners of the four bedrooms as at "Carysbrook." Similar, also, are the arched doors on the middle floor with their fan-shaped openings above them.

This house shares its history with "Mountain View," as William Shepherd came to live at Glen Burnie, and Abram Shepherd, Jr., moved to the house closer to Palmyra. Edmund George owned "Glen Burnie" at one time, and Colonel William B. Pettit purchased it following the War Between the States.

Colonel Pettit and his son Pembroke had illustrious careers in Fluvanna County and in the State. Colonel Pettit was a lieutenant in the Confederacy and Commonwealth's Attorney in Fluvanna. He was president of the Virginia Bar Association in 1894 and a member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention in 1901.

To commemorate this Convention, each member was given a pin oak to plant on his lawn or on the courthouse square. Col. Pettit's oak was planted in the yard at Glen Burnie among many other native Virginia trees and has always been known as the Constitution Oak. Only fifty-six of these oaks could be found in the State in 1960.

The "new" bridge over the Rivanna at Palmyra was named as a memorial to Pembroke Pettit, Sr., who is affectionately remembered in Fluvanna today.

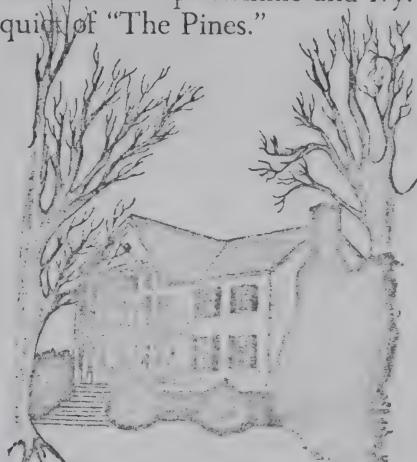
At the foot of the hill from the mansion the present owner W. A. C. Pettit has built a pond with a road across the dam to the



family cemetery, "The Pines." Mirrored in the sheet of water are the tall pines, native holly and mountain laurel of this plot which is still used by the family. This shaded spot, with its commemorative markers, boxwood, and azaleas, is covered with periwinkle and ivy. Only the song of birds breaks the quiet of "The Pines."

## MOUNTAIN VIEW

### LANDMARK OF PALMYRA



THIS STATELY HOME, "Mountain View," was built of native woods by William Shepherd in 1830. This property has been owned by this Shepherd family down to the present day.

William Shepherd's brother, Abram Shepherd, Jr., married Mary Timberlake, the daughter of Walker Timberlake, a man of considerable property who donated the present site for the Court House and other County buildings. This Abram Shepherd, Jr., was elected Clerk of the County in 1830, the first clerk under the constitution of 1829. He was residing at "Glen Burnie," but since "Mountain View" was more convenient to the county seat, in the course of a few years they exchanged homes. William moved to "Glen Burnie" and Abram to "Mountain View." Abram served as Clerk of Fluvanna County for fifty years.

Upon the death of Abram Shepherd, Jr., in 1880, his son, James Osgood Shepherd, took over "Mountain View" and the family continued to live there. He organized a classical school utilizing a cottage in the yard, which proved most successful and was continued for several years. This cottage and some other old buildings still stand today.

Over one hundred years ago boxwood was planted to border the walk leading to steps of the charming two-story porch. These boxwood were planted from cuttings which were used for wedding



decorations for a wedding of a member of the family in Danville. Some of the boxwood are over twenty feet in height, despite the fact that they have been trimmed many times.

To one side of the house is a family cemetery and behind the lawn remain the terraces of a garden of long ago.

The present owner of "Mountain View" is James O. Shepherd, Jr., the son of Judge J. O. Shepherd. Mr. Shepherd and his wife have dealt with the old home in a most loving way, and it is tastefully furnished with antiques. In the north room stands a family piece, a handsome secretary. In another room is a schoolmaster desk used by a son of the family at the University of Virginia before he was killed in the War Between the States. There are lovely paintings by Miss Rose Shepherd, family pictures and daguerreotypes, interesting framed documents and Confederate money, precious old books, family Bibles, and souvenirs of county life.



## THE OLD HOMESTEAD (ROSE HILL)

THIS old house of Captain Charles Goodall Snead in Fork Union is situated upon a hill. It is surrounded by grounds on which are found the circular driveway of other days, tall boxwood, and a horseblock of rock.

Within the house, now owned by Mrs. Bessie Snead Burgess, are furnishings of mahogany, pine, and walnut, ancient glass candlesticks, and a music-making eggnog bowl . . . all combined attractively with furnishings of later years in this home of gracious line and build.

Included in the facts of historical interest about this house is that when Sheridan raided this portion of Fluvanna in 1864, he visited the Old Homestead and had his horse shod in the front yard, while



he entered the dining room by the east door and demanded refreshments. — W.P.A. record, **MISS SUSIE SHEPHERD**.

Interesting also is the war record of Captain Snead, who volunteered for service as a private and when General Massie was killed was promoted to the captaincy of the battery by General Lee. Captain Snead worked for the Veterans' cause after the war and his devotion to the Confederate Reunions was outstanding.

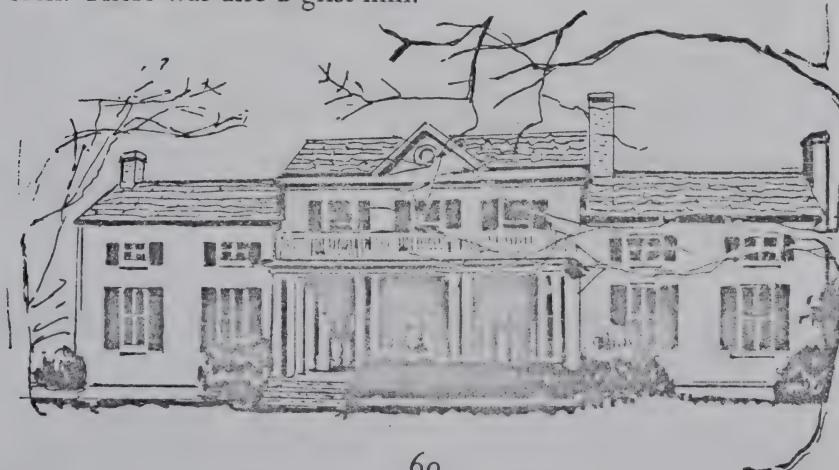
Also it should be noted that the Old Homestead is the original home of one of the Snead-Pollard couples, as is Oak Grove Farm, the home of W. T. Snead, and the Gold Mine Farm, the home of Charles Alexander is built on the site of the third old house.

### OLD ORCHARD

OLD ORCHARD is located near Scottsville. While not one of the old houses of the county, it has weathered over a hundred years with grace and charm. It is believed to have been built in 1853 by William D. and Phanel Davis. The east wing was built about 1860, when there was need for a school for the Davis children, as well as other children, mostly cousins, of the neighborhood. The west wing was built in 1890.

There are slave quarters on the place thought to be at least 200 years old. The old kitchen and smoke house are in good condition. On the front lawn is a large old pine tree that was once decorated as a Christmas tree for the white and colored people on the place.

The first ice ever to have been sold in Scottsville is said to have come from the ice houses there; the holes of the houses can still be seen. There was also a grist mill.





The Misses Nannie May and Lou Davis lived at the place for many years. Long-time residents of this section still recall the gracious hospitality they enjoyed there.

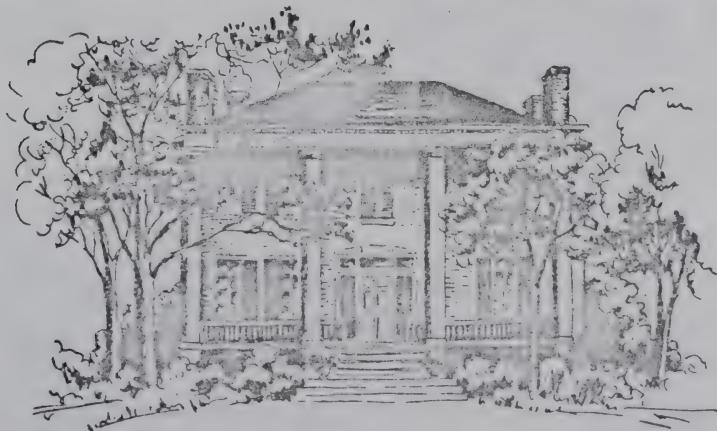
In 1943 this old Davis Place was sold to Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Krouse; about 1954, to the Dennison family; in 1959, to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Pollard Staley.

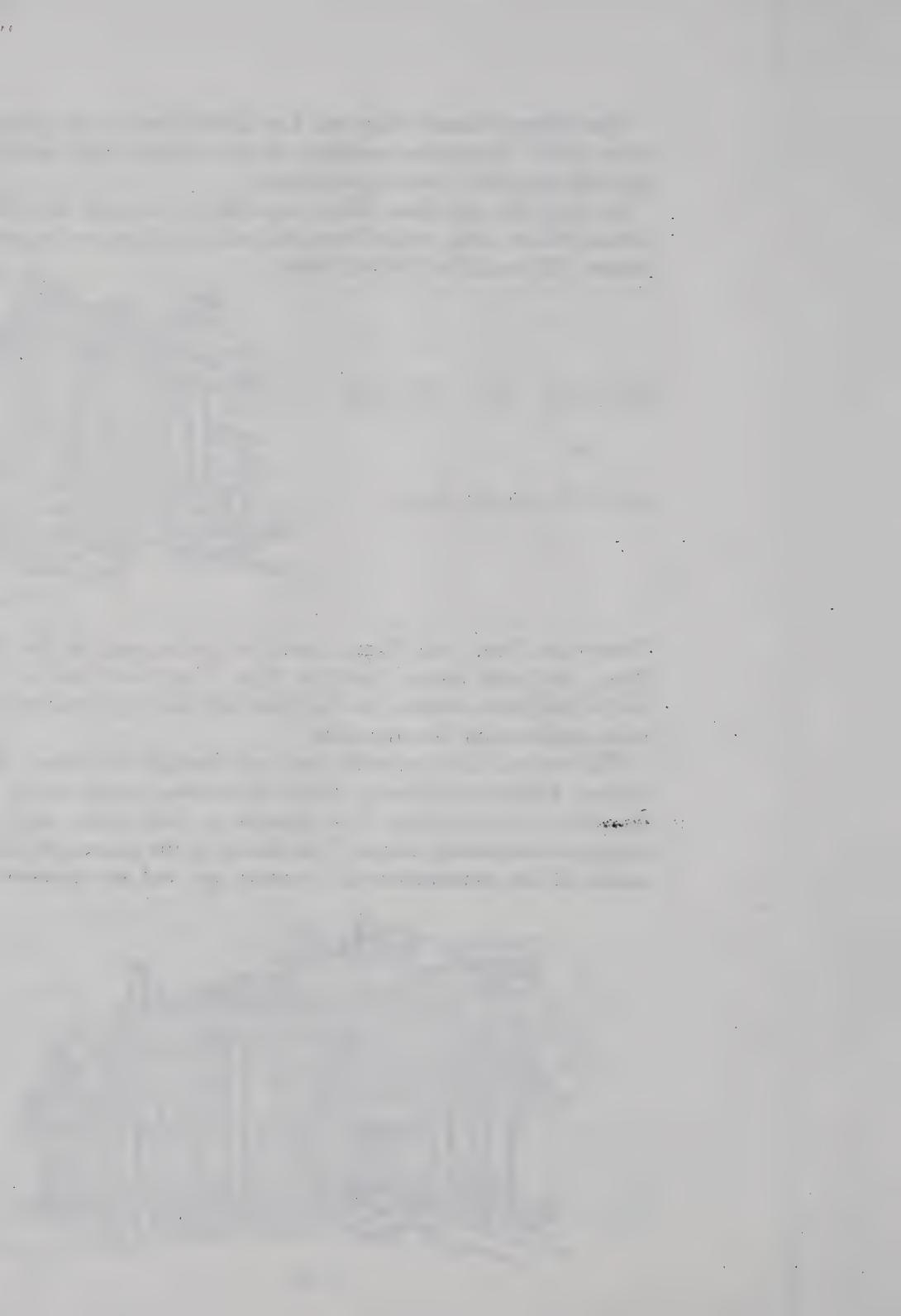
POINT OF FORK  
and  
GLEN ARVON



"POINT OF FORK" and "Glen Arvon," six miles apart on the James River, are "twin houses" built in 1820. They were built of brick with a handsome entrance on the River side and big round two-story white columns on the other side.

The central halls are wide and run through the center of the houses. Handsome columns divide the drawing rooms which were heated by two fireplaces. The mantels in these rooms and other rooms are elaborately carved. The details of the houses are characteristic of the construction of a century ago and are representative





of the best in southern colonial architecture. The dining rooms and kitchens are in the English basements.

William Galt, a bachelor from Scotland, owned these plantations (as well as a large shipping business). He built the two mansions and divided the land between his two nephews, giving "Glen Arvon" to William Galt and "Point of Fork" to the other brother, James Galt. At both places, some of the original dependencies are still standing; at "Glen Arvon" one has been made into a delightful guest house.

"Point of Fork" faces the point where the Rivanna River joins the James (once Fluvanna River). There is a spacious lawn with beautiful magnolias and a rare cedar of Lebanon. Within it is furnished with interesting antiques. In the drawing room is a beautiful crystal chandelier and an elegant pier glass.

"Glen Arvon" overlooks the wide spreading lowgrounds, a large productive estate. Within are many interesting articles gathered from travels abroad. A lovely feature is the graceful winding stairway with a mahogany rail leading to the upstairs bedrooms.

Dr. and Mrs. Russell Snead of "Point of Fork" and Mr. and Mrs. Warren O'Brien of "Glen Arvon" have enhanced the beauty and attractiveness of the homes; each place reflects the personal tastes and interests of the present owners.



PLEASANT VIEW  
IN  
1937

As ONE approaches, the trees of the grounds, the high brick of the original basement, and the large dormer windows strike the eye.



Steps lead to an elevated porch and front door on the middle floor. The woodwork is charming; the beautiful doors and graceful lines of the stairs give pleasure. From the south porch a far view of the wooded hills may be seen and this must be the vista which gave the name "Pleasant View" to this gracious home.

The mistress of the house, Mrs. Annie Cabell Snead, showed me the family Bible with records of all except the first owner and builders of the house. The house was built by John G. Hughes in 1836. It was later sold to I. O. Perkins and John Perkins.

Mrs. Snead told of one section of the house being taken  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away to be used as the beginning of the house of I. O. Perkins, the younger, as he did not receive as much land as the other children did when the property was divided.

— MISS SUSIE SHEPHERD, 1937

### *PLEASANT VIEW, 1863*

DURING the War Between the States my great-grandmother was alone in the house except for the servants when the Yankees came. She was frightened and went up to her room on the third floor. She locked the door and told the servants if the Yankees came up there she would jump out of the window. One of the Yankees felt sorry for her and told a servant to take her a cup of tea.

— BURWELL EVANS

### *ROADVIEW*

"ROADVIEW," home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Eugene Perkins, is on Rt. 623 near Beulah Church. It was originally owned by their great-great-grandfather Christopher Shepherd. Today the frame house with its gabled roof stands in stately dignity, its white paint glistening, with neat shutters and handsome front entrance. It is shaded by sheltering trees and landscaped with old boxwood.

The date 1793 was inscribed in brick on the south chimney of the original part of the house. Several additions have been made to the house during the years and it is now "L" shaped with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and 2 stories.





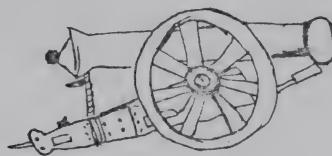
All of the woodwork and floors are heart pine, hand prepared and finished. The trim inside the house is hand-carved and fluted; a mantel piece is trimmed with hand-carved sunburst medallions. The joinings are made by pegs, mortises and shop-made nails. There are three very large chimneys, the brick having been made on the place.

The old kitchen in the yard was a two-story structure with a large stone chimney.



## FLUVANNA'S ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR

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### FLUVANNA COMPANIES



IN 1861, five companies were organized in Fluvanna and sent to the front. They were men of pride and patriotism. One company was organized under Captain R. H. Poore, a lawyer in Palmyra, and drilled on the Court Green.

The second company was formed under Captain John Weiseiger at Kent's Store.

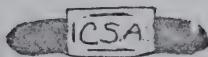
The third company was organized around Wesley's Chapel and Antioch under Captain David W. Anderson. All three companies were assigned to the 44th Virginia Infantry.

The fourth company was united at Fork Union under Captain Brent.



The fifth company was formed near Fluvanna Church under the command of Captain Cary C. Cocke. The fourth and fifth companies were assigned to the Rescue Corps of the Artillery, Army of Northern Virginia. The fifth company was noted not only for its zeal and daring, but also for its religious fervor. The men for the most part kept themselves connected with church work during the whole four years.

In 1862, a sixth company was gotten together near Wilmington under John Sam Bowles, afterwards Major Bowles. It was assigned to a Virginia Battalion of Infantry. In this company was the daring Captain John B. Page, who was a member of the party sent to capture John Brown at Harper's Ferry in 1859. Another member





was John Johnson, who helped to carry the wounded General Stonewall Jackson off the battlefield at Chancellorsville.

The seventh was a cavalry company formed in the northwestern part of the county under Colonel Reuben Boston. This company was assigned to the Fifth Virginia Cavalry, Army of Northern Virginia.

The eighth, a heavy artillery company, was gotten together at Scottsville under Captain Henry Price. This company was assigned to fortifications around Richmond.

The bravery, daring, and endurance of the soldiers cannot be told. Many such deeds went unheralded, and the lack of space limits the stories of their heroism.

In addition to the eight regular companies mentioned, many men went from Fluvanna to join companies in other countries. Each company averaged about 105 men. When the war was nearing its close, men of sixty and over were compelled to go — many boys of fifteen and sixteen joined. About 1,200 went from "Old Flu" in the four years' struggle.

— ROSEN JOHNSON

## FLUVANNA ARTILLERY TRAINS

IN LESS than sixty days after the Virginia Convention passed an ordinance of secession (April 17th, 1861), the Fluvanna Light Artillery was organized and preparing for the Confederate service. The organization was effected at Palmyra, June 6th, 1861. Dr. C. C. Cocke became captain of the Company, J. J. Ancell, first lieutenant, and F. L. Johnson second lieutenant, later J. Wiley Bledsoe was elected junior second lieutenant.

As a majority of the members of the Company resided in the Southern part of the county, Fluvanna Church was deemed a convenient place to meet for drill. Here the Company met almost daily, and by the persistent efforts of our very competent officers (Lieutenant Ancell was especially proficient) in two months competent judges pronounced it one of the best trained companies that had entered the Confederate service. The infant government not possessing the facilities for equipping her troops as fast as they enlisted, the patriotic ladies residing in the vicinity of our place of rendezvous organized sewing circles and made the uniforms for the entire Company. Those days were full of anxiety and appre-





hension, but not so cheerless as the reader may think. Our thoughts were not altogether of war. The sewing circle, of course, occupied the church, while the church yard was used as a parade ground. Now the girls loved to see the young soldiers "About Face, Right Wheel, Parade Rest," and when Captain Cocke gave the command "Break ranks," the young braves made themselves useful to the *Circle* by threading needles, picking up spools, sharpening scissors, etc. The day's work ended, the young defenders of their country, of course, saw the young ladies home, and the next morning saw them to the sewing circle again. If this was *war* we didn't care how long it lasted.

Meanwhile, someone, a military genius doubtless, conceived the idea that artillerymen should be armed with bowie knives to defend themselves against infantry charges; so all who could procured large files and took them to a blacksmith who converted them into large knives to be used in great emergencies.

By the last of July, Captain Cocke's Company had on the gray. Sunday August 4, Rev. A. C. Bledsoe preached to us at Fluvanna church an appropriate sermon and Tuesday, August 6, we bade a sad farewell to home and loved ones with tearful eyes and well filled haversacks. We assembled at Middleton Mills where a freight boat was in waiting to convey us to the Confederate Capital.

— R.J.F.

## CARYSBROOK *A Haven During the Civil War*

AFTER leaving Eagle Point, we made our way to Richmond and thence to Fluvanna. Henceforth, Carysbrook was our dependence. And very fortunate we were to have such a refuge. The enemy did not reach us till March, '65, and in every respect the plantation was well adapted to be a wartime home. We had always despised it in comparison with Eagle Point, but its virtues were soon appreciated. Without the luxuries and refinements of the old established home, it was yet comfortable, abundant in production and rich in resources. It was a tobacco farm by rights, but all its powers were devoted to good now. No more tobacco was raised until after the war; corn, wheat, oats, grass and sorghum were the field crops, with



all the stock the plantation could support. There were 106 Negroes, old and young, on the place at the end of the war.

Here we soon got down to real Confederate life, everything being devoted to sustaining the army and the government, and nearly everything used being produced on the place. The horses and mules were shared with the government, the corn and hay were continually being turned over to the quartermasters, meats and grains to the officers, and squads of the Negro men were from time to time sent down to Richmond to work on the fortifications.

Father's household was overflowing throughout the whole war. I recall Tom Tucker, Henry Bryan, Jim Proctor and our own Saint and Joe among the wounded, and I do not even remember the names of dozens of poor fellows from many states, whom father brought with him from the hospitals and elsewhere in Richmond.

He was by no means particular whom he brought, sometimes nice gentlemen, but oftner three or four poor broken-down fellows whose only attraction was their wounds and their Confederate gray or butternut. With their wounds and sometimes uncleanly habits and unsavory ways, they were somewhat of a trial to the nicer portion of the household; but never mind that, they had everything the plantation could give to supply their wants. I found them delightful, for if they were full of camp itch they were full of tales of the camp and the battle, and as soon as they could drag themselves around they were ready to go fishing, or straggling about the fields and woods with me; and often they were mere boys. Our house was a refuge and a hospital for four years.

Father was a great-patron of home manufactures in those days. Very little, except iron and salt, was imported to the plantation. Salt was so scarce and so precious that it used to be kept locked up in the county jail, the heads of families and plantations being allowed to buy according to the number of souls they represented. The bees and sorghum supplied the place with sugar in all forms. There was a little tea, a little coffee and a little sugar kept for sickness.

Another matter with which father charged himself during the war was assisting many poor families in the neighborhood whose fathers, sons or brothers were in the army. The women and boys would come regularly to Carysbrook to get food or other help; they



were always fed first and then would get their bags filled at the mill or storerooms and go off, to come again in due time.

— *Joseph Bryan* BY JOHN STEWART BRYAN

## LETTER FROM A SOLDIER

Fredericksburg May 12, 1863

Dear Martha,

I haven't received one from you since the 27th of April but I hope I will get one this evening. (I was down at Guinea Station yesterday and saw the remains of General Jackson. They were putting him on the train just as I got there he was in a very fine coffin and two large wreaths of flowers laying on it, he died in a house about a quarter of a mile from the station. His wife and a good many of his relations were there. Everything looked very solemn and it is a solemn thing to lose such a man as he was. Just this time the Yankees were firing salutes and stirring around mighty yesterday evening I suppose they are rejoicing over his death.

I suppose the Yankees gave you all a pretty smart scare when they went to Columbia. I heard they had the men running up and down the branches hiding like old hares. I heard they carried off two of your Uncle Joe's Negro men but one got away from them and came back.

How are they getting on with the tobacco factory or have they commenced work yet? You said that some of the neighbors told you that I would think you didn't care anything for me because you didn't come to see me. I would have liked mighty for you to have come to see me while I was in winter quarters but I didn't think it was prudent for you to come having two children to bring with you and one of them so very young and the weather bad and the roads almost impassable. but I hope you think as much of me as ever. Martha, I hope that the time is not far distant when I can get home to live with you once more in peace. 13th — I was mighty disappointed at not getting a letter yesterday though I am pretty sure there must be one on the way for me. The mail hasn't come very regular since the Yankees made that raid down the rail road. Wesley Hughes is right smartly complaining I think it is cold.

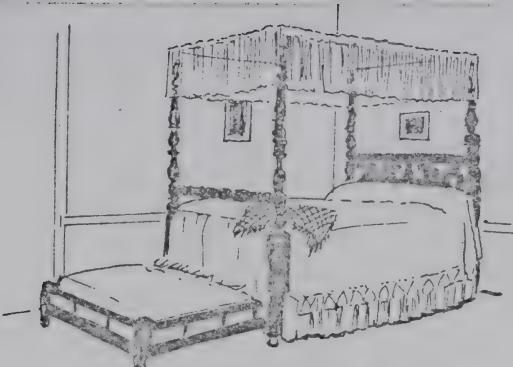
The Yankees are very quiet now except they keep up a mighty fuss with their drums drilling their troops. I believe they bring them out on the hill sides to show us how many they have to try to frighten us but the more they bring in a fight the bigger pile we have to shoot at and the more our balls will kill and there seems a large number don't do any more than a small one. I see the papers say old Lincoln has called for five hundred thousand more men so I suppose there is to be no peace for us this year.

Give my love to all inquiring friends. Kiss Pattie and Fletcher for me. I would like mighty to get to see you all but can't tell when it will be.

M. F. SEAY



## SPRING GARDEN



THE OLD brick mansion high on the bluff overlooking the James River, beautifully named "Spring Garden," was built many long years ago on a land grant to Richard Cocke. This home, its contents, and its past are a living history of the War Between the States. Its record is not a dry page to be memorized, but a story that is taken in by the eye and absorbed from the very atmosphere.

"Spring Garden" was bought in 1859 by the grandfather of the present occupant and a loving family has retained the home very much as it was in that day.

In the center of the heart-shaped drive before the front door a magnificent magnolia spreads its limbs. It was up this drive that twenty Confederate cavalrymen rode to ask permission to spend the night. What a grand sight they made, in their dashing uniforms, sitting their beautiful horses as only Southerners could! The next morning the captain, with true southern courtesy, made a most eloquent speech to the family, thanking them for their gracious hospitality.

The whole house is furnished with ante-bellum pieces — rosewood, mahogany, walnut and heart-pine — which Henry W. Wood





brought from "Willow Hill" on the Rivanna when he moved to "Spring Garden." There are old quilts and hand-woven coverlets made from wool carded at "W.H." In the front hall hangs the old swinging lamp and its candlelight falls on a picture of "Stonewall" Jackson and an autographed picture of General Lee.

Through louvered dividing doors one wall of the hall is covered with framed documents with letterheads such as "Fluvanna Female Institute, 1869"; report cards of students of early private schools, engravings which show family and county life. On another wall hangs the "Oath of Allegiance to the U. S. Constitution," signed by President Andrew Johnson, which Mr. Wood was required to sign at the end of the War. There are beautiful letters of advice and counsel written by the father to sons away at school.

The drawing room to the left has an appealing air of yester-year, for here time has stood still for a century. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Wood (120 years old) look down on the rosewood piano. A young lady of the family once played the music lying on the piano — "Lorena," "When This Cruel War Is Over," "Do They Miss Me at Home?," "Then You'll Remember Me" — to the young soldiers who came to recuperate from wounds and find respite before returning to battle. (One badly wounded officer was taken in by the family and tenderly nursed for fourteen months.) In this room is a copy of "The Fluvanna March," written by Miss Julia Wood in 1877. The old unfaded French paper flowers under globes on the mantelpiece, the family album, and painted scenes of plantation life speak of the gaiety that was snuffed out by the War.

When you swing open the heavy, wide, heart-pine door to the downstairs bedroom you first notice the high four-poster with tester above and trundle-bed beneath. Then your eye is drawn to the pictures and daguerrotypes on the mantel. They tell the story of the six sons who served in the Confederacy. One died at the Chimborazo Hospital of typhoid; six weeks later another was shot through the heart at Winchester; and on the same day two more were severely wounded — one lost a leg. A fifth son received a severe thigh wound at Gaines' Mill, but the youngest escaped injury, being too young for service until the "cruel war" was nearly over. Letters which these young men wrote home to their mother from the front, picture the traditions of family life in Fluvanna and the legacy of honor and courage which is ours.



# LETTER FROM LUTHER HOLLAND

In the front line Fortifications  
1½ miles from Petersburg  
Aug. 6, 1864

Dear Sal,

Having not received anything from you since the 25th July I write you as to where I am. As well as usual with a plenty to eat and rather more than we can consume unless we had a better way of cooking it, that is. We have a few peas to spare.

The Yanks shoot at us all day and night, too, but have not killed more than 5 or six men in our Brigade this week — though that is a sad lot and I fear I don't think as much about it as I ought and am most too careless when I think of you and our dear ones at home. I try to trust in God and hope his protecting power will shield me from harm for your sakes — hoping that it will be my lot to get safely through this trying time and once more join the little happy throng that gathers around our firesides.

A deserter came to our lines and informed us of some of the Yankee plots to blow us up by undermining, and powder has been found deeply entrenched in the earth near several of our Batteries and I hope we will be fast enough for them to prevent any more sacrifice of life on our side, which has already been too great.

I love to hear you speak of drying the apples and taking care of everything that will go to support our large family of little folks. When I was a boy used to gather the summer apples and put them away untill they could be dried or used in some economical way. If you lack for driers you can dry by spreading the fruit on a sheet or counterpane — on the barn shed is a first rate place and you can dry there so fast. I don't understand how the chickens get in the garden so much when its so newly done up and I thought sufficient to keep them out. Raise all the fowls you can as our hogs will be few this fall. Keep the little calf for Willy to play with and use the spare milk for the little Negroes, and sow a great many turnips to feed the cows on. I think it will rain after awhile. The season is a very discouraging one and I think you can put the wheat in the room upstairs where the corn was put and conceal it as there will not be any more than our family will use. If the corn does not improve I think we can make out something for to live on and hope to spend the winter at home.

Tell the boys and Fanny and Grandma that I would be delighted to see them again and look forward to the day when our land shall be free again, though times are dark and gloomy just now.

I have been paid up by the Government and have some \$200 — rather more than I have a use for just now but could soon spend it if so disposed.

Adiew for the present. Write soon how you are getting on.

LUTHER HOLLAND



## DIARY OF JAMES GALT

THIS is an installment of a diary kept by James Galt, who lived at Point of Fork, Fluvanna County, during the Civil War. The diary itself is the property of James Galt, Fluvanna County, great-grandson of the diary's writer.

June 1864

1. A warm day. Have finished ploughing the N. River low gro. corn, and began on the Point & River bank. Gen'l Cocke & Dr. Brent called this morning.
2. The forenoon warm, abt. 4 began to rain, quite hard at first, afterwards gently & cont'd until 9, a fine rain, here working river bank corn. Capt. Chatam, the new Comr. of the Navy Camp, dined with me today.
3. The forenoon cloudy, dropping rain now & then, cleared off after 12. In the afternoon working corn & ploughing creek flats, which have not been ploughed or planted. Mr. Dennis from the 6th Va. Cavalry came this afternoon for Mr. Kimball's horse, which has been here for 2 months or more. He brot the horse of a Mr. Wilmouth of Loudoun, who has been shot in the leg, Mr. W. not the horse, for me to take care of. A serv't of the Rev. & Mrs. Davis, Chaplain of the 6th, came in the even'g and a soldier of the 6th Va. Cavalry, slightly wounded in the shoulder. Heavy firing, the loudest & most distant I have heard during the war, was heard from day until past 10 & more indistinct after that until 1 or later, from 9 to 10 it was very loud & continuous, no doubt from the large guns at Drury's Bluff or from the gun boats, field pieces could not be heard so distinctly.
13. Two very cool days, cutting clover & ploughing corn at all the places. On & Sunday the 12th, my servant William came from below Richmond, he was on his way to Charlottesville with my son's horse, he heard the firing & the report of a fight yesterday in the direction of Louisa C. H. Late in the day a report came to Columbia of a fight & that the Yankees were coming this way, which caused a stampede in Columbia. On the forenoon of the 13th a report came that the Yankees were at Bowlesville some 13 or 14 miles from Columbia & caused a great panic, almost everyone went across the River, carrying as much of their property with them as they could. I could not believe that a force of 6 or 8,000 on each side, with artillery, could be within 14 or 15 miles and no report of firing heard. I became satisfied that the rumors were without foundation.

This evening, the 14th, Capt. Roper told me that the fighting at Louisa on both days was very obstinate, on the 13th cont'd until late in the night, abt. 2 the enemy were in full retreat in the direction of Spotsylvania Ct. House, well whipped & routed, we immediately started in pursuit, Gen'l Hampton following them, Gen'l Fitz Lee going down the road to Hanover Junction, where they expect him to be tonight & if so they think their retreat will be cut off. I hope it may prove so. Capt. Randolph thinks we have taken as many as 1500 prisoners. This I hope will stop their raiding for some time. Capt. R. thinks they were coming to Columbia to break the canal, cross the river as they had pontoons with them, destroy the Southside and Danville roads, if they had succeeded would have proved a heavy blow, as all the supplies for the Army



come by the canal & those railroads. During the excitement of the 13th I sent several trunks filled with valuable articles to the upper place to be sent over the river, if necessary, did not stop hands or teams from their work.

18. A clear, pleasant day, not as warm as yesterday, cutting wheat at all the places. I think I heard the report of cannon in the direction of Richmond abt. 11 today. An unusual spectacle went down the canal this evening, 4 freight boats filled with some 470 Yankee prisoners passed down, many of them were quite young & good looking, they were part of those taken in Louisa last Sunday — may it be the only way they are ever seen here.

## DIARY OF GENERAL JOHN HARTWELL COCKE

March 10, 1865. National Thanksgiving Fasting and Prayer

May it not be, a sufficient reason to account for our protracted sufferings in the War now raging around us — & mutually destroying North & South — that we are the devoted Idolators of the inebreathing poisonous Weed — Tobacco?

An Idol is anything which usurps the time and attention of its votary, to a degree which rivals or enslaves the devotedness due to God: It may be Money -- it may be Fame — or Strong drink — or Opium or Tobacco.

The day above rendered memorable by the passage of Sherridans army thro' Bremo after its late capture of Earlys Army.

Our Neighbor Mr. Henry Wood fell into the hands of the enemy yesterday, & called this morning, to give us an acct. of his handsom treatment & release by Lieut: Marx of Phila worth remembering.

Col. Brewster of N Y City call 2 night & comforted us with assurances of protection against House robbing to which, we had been exposed during the Day.

## WAR RECORD OF PHILIP ST. GEORGE COCKE SON OF JOHN HARTWELL COCKE

BORN in 1808 of one of the oldest and wealthiest families of the State, he had been schooled in arms at West Point, but after less than two years of garrison duty, he resigned to devote himself to the care of his estates. The system of management that Cocke expounded in his "Plantation and Farm Instruction," published in 1852, he had exemplified on thousands of flourishing acres. Virginia had no planter more renowned than St. George Cocke.

At the battle of First Manassas, Cocke had been given the Fifth Brigade in Beauregard's organization. On the morning of July 21,



from his brigade headquarters at Portici, Cocke had repulsed Federal demonstrations along Bull Run and had directed forward the earliest reinforcements to reach the flank. It was he who informed first Bee and Bartow, then Hampton, and then Jackson of Evans's advance and of the progress of the action. Without Cocke's guidance, based on his thorough knowledge of the terrain, the order of battle could not have been established so readily or so soon. What seemed in retrospect a marvel of distant control by Beauregard was, in reality, the work of Colonel Cocke. Altogether, Cocke had met a succession of tests with clear judgment, decision and promptness. By brother officers he was recognized as "a high-minded and gallant soldier, a devoted patriot, and a gentleman of cultivation and refinement." He was nominated Brigadier General October 21, 1861.

Philip St. George Cocke's portrait hangs in a Brevo mansion.

— TAKEN FROM *Lee's Lieutenants*, VOL. I, DOUGLAS FREEMAN  
Charles Scribners Sons



THE JOHNSON  
TWINS FIND  
EACH OTHER

ROBERT NICHOLAS JOHNSON and his twin Joseph Johnson retreated from Petersburg. Neither knowing the whereabouts of the other or whether he was still alive, they found each other at Appomattox and started back home together. Joe, being in the cavalry, had a horse, and Robert, in the infantry, did not have a horse. They slowly traveled from Appomattox to their home near Antioch.



## AMNESTY OATH.

State of West Virginia.

Philip C. H. Va., 1865.

In the presence of witness, I, Philip C. H. Va., do solemnly swear, to God, that I will, from this day forward, faithfully support and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the laws and Constitution of the State of West Virginia, and to oppose all attempts to subvert or destroy the same; and that I will, in the same manner, support and defend the Constitution of the Confederate States, and that I will, in the same manner, support and defend the Proclamations of the President and the War Department, during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves, as long as the same are not declared, or declared null by decision of the Supreme Court—So help me God.

Sworn and subscribed to, before me,

1865.

Provost Marshal.

After twenty years, we rural folks were right well recovered from the Civil War. Farmers had in considerable degree adjusted to emancipation. The colored people were for hire at low wages. Nearly all farmers owned their homes and got their living and some of their clothing from the farm. Most farm work was done by manual labor. Tools were simple, some of them were made in local shops.

— R. E. LOVING

Slowly but progressively the Reconstruction period rose from its ashes, so that by 1895 the time was spoken of as "the gay nineties." No people ever pulled through such a harrowing experience more bravely and determinedly to dedicate their efforts to high attainments in every field of knowledge.

— SALLIE S. CLEVELAND

The amount of Order to be issued, Twenty Thousand Dollars, of the following denominations, viz: \$1,000 in order of \$1.00 on forty 4000  
\$4,000 in order of \$4.00 on " 3000  
\$1,000 in order of 25 cents " 1000

As the orders to be dated numbers and signed by the President, Vice-President and the Clerk of the Court as Treasurer or some one to whom to be appointed by them severally.—

It shall be made payable when presented in sums of four dollars or its multiple, and shall be made redeemable in currency at 1000.

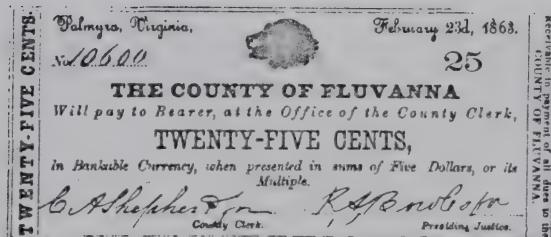
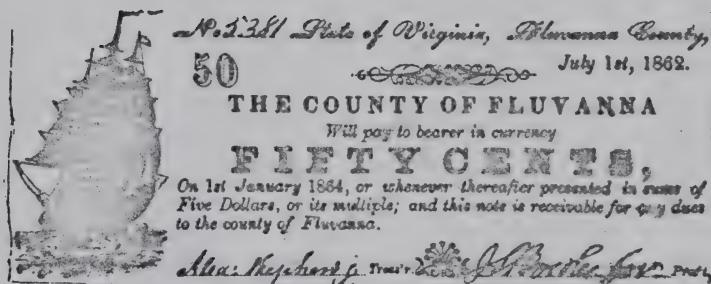
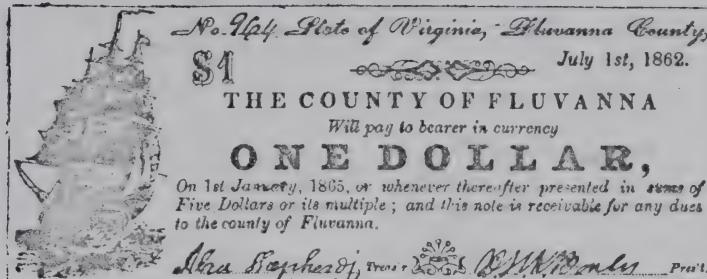
The first in twenty five cents order on the 1st January 1862

The first in fifty cents order on the 1st January 1864

The first in one cents order on the 1st January 1865

The order shall expire on this date that they shall be irredeemable in payment of all debts due to the Government.





Currency issued by Fluvanna County  
 during the Civil War





GENERAL  
ROBERT E. LEE  
VISITS  
FLUVANNA

THE following is a letter written by John H. Cocke, a resident of Fluvanna County, concerning a horseback journey he took in company with Confederate Commander-in-Chief, Robert E. Lee, shortly after the war. The letter gives many insights into the great character of the Confederate hero through the eyes of the young writer.

Having left the Virginia Military Institute, I went to my home at Bremo, Fluvanna County, Virginia, to enjoy my summer vacation. One day while lying on the "Western Terrace," I heard the gate in front of the house open and shut. Upon looking through the window, I saw a stranger approaching the house whom I immediately recognized as General Lee. My father, in very proud and pleased tones, welcomed him with — "Why General — come in — I am delighted to see you here!" When the General dismounted from his horse, "Traveller", he had not forgotten to loosen the saddle girths and speak a kind word to the noble horse, which had served him so faithfully in both war and peace.

Immediately his arrival was known, and a number of guests arrived on the scene. I particularly noticed the neat condition of General Lee's dress; for after a ride in hot weather of thirty miles, he seemed as neat and clean as though he had just come from his chamber. General Lee was journeying from Cumberland County to Lexington. When he stated that night that he must proceed to Bishop Wilmer's at Plain Dealings the next morning, my father proposed that I offer to ride along with the General over the road I knew so well. To my everlasting joy, the grand old man allowed me to ride with him and I shall never forget it.

The next morning our horses were brought forth and the General, carefully examined the harness, welcomed his gray horse with a pat upon



the nose. Bidding farewell to all, we were on our journey. After traveling a few miles, we stopped near a cool stream to have lunch and let the horses have water. I have never seen a man more thoughtful of the comfort of his horse, for he removed the bit from the animal's mouth, loosened the saddle girths, and cooled the horse's back.

After the little rest, we continued our ride. As we were going up a long hill, we met a man coming in our direction driving an old mule. General Lee spoke kindly to him and he replied, "How are you, Marse Robert?", assuming the position of a soldier giving the military salute, which the General duly acknowledged. We passed on and the General remarked to me, "That is one of the Confederate soldiers." As I looked back I saw the figure remaining at attention until we passed out of sight. On the way I was honored with sage counsel and good advice given in a way that could but endear the giver. We arrived at Bishop Wilmer's, ate dinner, spent the night, and were ready to proceed. I begged General Lee to allow me to ride further, but he said it wasn't needful and thinking he might rather travel alone, I did not press the matter. He mounted Traveller and took the road leading to Lexington. It was a sad and yet pleasant memory to me. What a man he was — grand, good, true, brave, — yet gentle and ever courteous — a blessed example to us all.

### MRS. LEE ENDEARS HERSELF TO THE FLUVANNA PEOPLE

MRS. MATTIE O. HUGHES tells of a ride, when she was a little girl, in a passenger packet to Bremo Bluff. To the child it was a "boring trip seeing nothing but water, trees, and the boat. She had no one her age on the boat, and her mother was talking grown up talk to a lady." Finally, in desperation, she found a truck studded with brass nails. She began to play on them as though they were piano keys. She sang to accompany her music. When she noticed that her mother and the lady were watching her, she ran to her mother in embarrassment. Her mother said, "Please don't be shy. Mrs. Robert E. Lee wants to hear you sing again."

Mrs. Hughes prizes very highly a quilt which was made from a pattern given her mother by Mrs. Lee on that trip.

In the Confederate Museum in Richmond is an autographed letter to Mrs. Wood from Mrs. Robert E. Lee while the Lee family was refugeeing at Upper Bremo. The text of the letter is as follows:



Bremo, Oct. 12, 1864

My dear Mrs. Wood:

I was very much gratified that you should so kindly care for my comfort while suffering under such heavy trials yourself.

I pray that the God of Mercy may send you His heavenly consolation, and restore to you in safety the brave sons now in the hands of the enemy. We know that no harm can happen to those we love, except by His permission, and that He is a God who heareth prayer.

I send you a little book that I thought might afford you some comfort, and also a likeness of Gen. Lee. It was one of the last taken and is very good.

It may interest you as you have furnished so many of your family to our noble Army.

I will send your jar back to Mrs. Downman, as all those things are very scarce now. Its contents will be most valuable to me.

Should I be able to visit Fluvanna another season, I hope to be well enough to ride over and see you. I am so helpless and suffering now, that I scarcely get out of the house.

Yours most truly,

(SIGNED) M. C. LEE



## GENERAL LAFAYETTE VISITS WILMINGTON

IN NOVEMBER 1824, General Lafayette came to Fluvanna on his triumphant march through Virginia. His first stop in the county was at Columbia, where he was met at the carriage by General Cocke and the Reverend Mr. Timberlake, who conducted him, his suite and companions to the door of the tavern where John G. Miller was introduced and gave the welcoming address. The General answered with an appropriate reply. Then they went "in to the collation and other refreshments prepared by Mrs. Lee."

In the afternoon he set off to Wilmington with his escort. His carriage was drawn by "four English stallions of the true Hunter's breed and the trip of nine miles was accomplished in an hour and five minutes."

At Wilmington in the orchard of the tavern of Horatio Wills (now Coles Tavern), Lafayette was received. There he now saw upwards of thirty revolutionary soldiers — many of whom had served under him. Afterwards a company of more than over one hundred and twenty persons sat down to the dinner table.

The dinner completed, many "set" toasts were drunk. Lafayette gave, "The county of Fluvanna and Mechunck creek — where upper and lower Virginians rendevoused to show the enemy the road to Yorktown." By W. M. Carey: "La Fayette — Withered be the hearts that deny him honour as our enemies withered before him at





York." By W. Key: "The United States — They will never cease to ascribe honour to the fathers of her Independence." After thirteen of the prepared toasts, General Lafayette retired to his chamber when John G. Miller was invited to preside and George Stillman to act as vice-president, and *twenty-five* volunteer toasts were given.

In 1822, James W. Currin erected the present building as a tavern to accommodate the stage coach trade. A large room in the basement served as a bar where a noggin of rum could refresh the weary traveller and clear the dust from his throat. The dining room adjoining furnished added cheer and warmth with its huge fireplace which handled six-foot logs. In the top floor was the ballroom, probably a dormitory for men guests of the tavern. Here was given the ball by the county citizens, the best remembrance of a social historical event of the county. Constantine Perkins, as a small boy, would tell years afterward to his grandchildren of his delight in watching the carriages roll up bringing the ladies in all their pride and beauty, curls and crinoline, to be joined there by gay cavaliers arriving on proud prancing steeds. As Lafayette entered the ball room, ladies spread their silken shawls down as a walkway for the visitor, and a select choir of ladies and gentlemen burst into song:

*Hear us, hear us, oh then leave us  
Take thy lingering lone farewell  
Those who did aid to give us  
All the days we now can tell  
Veteran hero friend of freedom  
In our hearts thou'l ever dwell.  
Leave no more these peerless mountains  
Every hearth a home to thee  
And these plaines, these chrystal fountains*

TUNE "TAMWORTH, A SACRED PLACE"





Monticello August 21<sup>st</sup> 1825

My dear General:

It is not a matter of infinite regret now to be able to make you a gift. The project which carries me over will be ready by the first of October. I could have forced further than Monticello, and then I dare not stay more than three days. This very morning, with a heavy heart, I leave our beloved friend.

You have been so kind as to provide wild turkeys for me. Could they be sent by way of Norfolk to the care of Mr. Crittenden for me. At Roanoke they will be more largely known'd by the pedlers which visit twice a month, and can take times for them from when they will likely reach to Orange and be more acceptable inmates of my farm.

Adieu, my dear Sir, let me bear from you and family to whom I beg you to forgive my affectionate respects. My son and Mr. L. below appear to be remonstrated and I offer you, with all my heart, the attachment, gratitude, and good wishes of your affectionate friend  
Lafayette

## A GIFT TO LAFAYETTE

As Lafayette rode to Charlottesville after the elaborate entertainment in Wilmington, he was so astonished by the many wild turkeys which he saw along the road, that General Cocke promised to send him some; and the photostat contains the directions for shipping. There is another letter from Lafayette thanking General Cocke for the shipment and saying that the turkeys were quite happy at his place near Paris





## PROTRACTED MEETING OF 1894

ATTENDING church in the country is a novel experience. At an early hour in the forenoon the visitors begin to arrive, coming in by every road, and in all sorts of conveyances, from the old-fashioned, exalted faintly coach to the lightest and cleanest skeleton jumper of the present day. Of course, some whose homes are nearby, come on foot. A long walk in a country lane offers advantages for courting not easily surpassed. Then it is pleasant to see the good people meeting and greeting each other cordially and with affectionate interest. They really seem to know and care for each other.

The singing is like the preaching — plain and unaffected. The music is only a parlor organ, and the choir lacks both talent and training, but how familiar the old tunes sound. The tenor was too fast, and the bass was far too slow, but neither seemed to mind it, and nobody else appeared to care. A flirtation or two going on in the back seats did not greatly mar the beauty and solemnity of the occasion. The large majority were too intent upon their worshipping to be regardful of trifles.

An even more pleasing sight is the noontide dinner. The repast is spread upon the various small tables scattered about the churchyard under the trees, frequently two or more families combining resources and feasting sumptuously and in hearty accord. There is no better place than this for good eating of the wholesome kind. If a dinnerless stranger is observed, he is cordially invited to join in, his name being first desired, and an introduction all around following. After the meal the congregation reassembles in the church and services are resumed, which continue until about four o'clock. After the meeting many groups form about the churchyard and a session of quiet chat is had. Some stop by the well, from which a wooden trough is extended into one of the church windows to carry water to the baptism pool, a primitive contrivance truly. Very slowly the crowd disperses, and it is near sundown before the last worshipper has left for his home.

— ANONYMOUS



# T R I B U T E T O H E R O E S

## FLUVANNA'S CONFEDERATE MONUMENT IS UNVEILED

M R . M O N T A C U E T H E O R A T O R

PALMYRA, VA., via Scottsville, Va., August 31. — A beautiful monument to the Confederate soldiers of Fluvanna County was unveiled here today in the presence of a gathering of several thousands of people, and with appropriate ceremonies. The orator of the occasion was Hon. A. J. Montague, Attorney-General of Virginia and Democratic nominee for the governorship.

At a very early hour people of all ages, sizes, and tastes began pouring into this village from every quarter, until by 11 o'clock every available spot in the town seemed to be crowded. The many vehicles of all styles rendered the streets almost impassable.

At 11:30 the court-house bell was rung calling the members of Fluvanna Camp, C.V., together at the Methodist church. From there they marched to the park, in which the monument stands, preceded by Colonel W. B. Pettit, Major J. S. Bowles, and Major D. W. Anderson. Then came E. H. King, bearing the colors of the camp.

Captain Snead called the large audience to order, and made a short introductory address. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Snead.

Hon. A. A. Gray then, in a beautiful timely speech, introduced Attorney-General Montague as the orator of the occasion. He spoke in substance as follows:

"This occasion commemorates the honor and patriotism of those who gave

up their lives for what they felt was noble and true. When the tocsin of war sounded the men of the South never hesitated or held back, but each man leaped to take his place in the ranks. Farmers, merchants, lawyers, artisans left all they had dear without delay."

### *Purpose of the Gathering*

"We are met today to get honor and goodness out of the occasion for ourselves. We come to exhort young people to follow such characters as their exemplars and to regard this monument as honoring the dead, who bore them so on this good day in this good old county. We come to commemorate these patriots. Virginia has generally been foremost in all the wars of the government."

— *The Richmond Dispatch* — 1901

### *The Unveiling*

The cornerstone was laid by the Masons with the impressive ceremony of that ancient order.

The lady sponsors representing the thirteen Confederate States laid their offerings of flowers and evergreens on the pedestal of the monument.

*The Midland Virginian*





## DIXIE WAR MEMORIAL

FLUVANNA COUNTY citizens dedicated Route 15 through the County as a memorial highway to veterans of World Wars I and II on November 11, 1950. Governor Battle, in his dedicatory talk at the Fluvanna County High School called for a "fight on the part of those who still believe in the traditional principles on which our government was founded against the real dangers of the foreign ideologies that are creeping into our country."

"We can praise the Fluvanna citizens for setting up a living war memorial for those from Fluvanna who fought for their country."

State Highway Commissioner, James A. Anderson, in introducing Governor Battle, said that the people acted "wisely in building the school during the depression of 1933 when costs were low," and that "the memorial highway is a capstone to that ancient alliance of good schools and roads."

After the two addresses, the program was continued at the stone marker at Dixie which was important during the Civil War. This stone was taken from the old Kanawha Canal aqueduct at Columbia.

The ceremony at Dixie was conducted by Mrs. Henry Snead, Regent of the Point of Fork Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, and Wade White, past District Commander of the American Legion. The flag raised by the Fork Union Military Academy color guard was the one which had been placed on the grave of John E. Hare, killed in World War II in France. This flag was presented by Lieutenant Hare's mother, Mrs. N. J. Perkins, of Carysbrook. A second flag had been given by Mrs. William Southall of Richmond, in memory of her husband who fought in World War I.

IN HONOR OF THE  
MEN AND WOMEN  
OF  
FLUVANNA COUNTY  
WHO SERVED IN  
WORLD WARS I AND II  
ERECTED BY THE  
FLUVANNA MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

1950



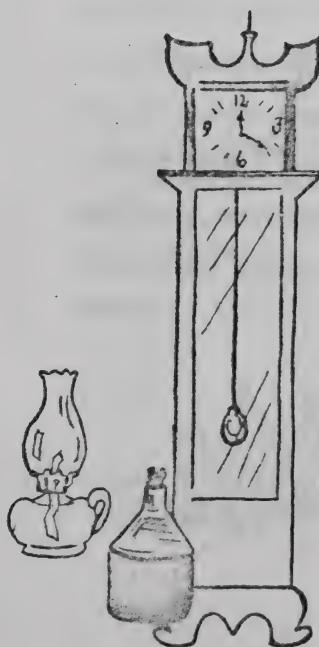


## COUNTRY SALE

A COUNTRY SALE brings out the folks. Neighbor eyes neighbor with some distrust, for each fears the others wants the cherry drop-leaf table with the broken leg. The two bidders join forces when they spy a stranger whom they suspect of being an antique dealer who will let neither have the table. The intruder, however, adds zest to the sale.

Frank Norcross, the auctioneer, throws in a joke as each item is sold. Hearing a new bidder, he yells, "Nother trumpet done blowed." If displeased with the low price, he tells the bidder goodbye, saying, "The next time I have a no count sale where the prices are five and ten cents I'll let you know."

The prince of all sales in Fluvanna was in 1926 when fine old things had to be sold to settle an estate. People from many states flocked in to the auction of Sheraton and Chippendale furniture. Because of association and age, old picture frames, stone jugs, milking stools, hair trunks, shovels, pestles, and kettles brought prices that were unheard of in this part of the world. In addition to these, there were many very fine pieces of furniture, silver, and glass. One old farmer gingerly sat on a valuable chair. When the new owner protested, the Fluvannian replied that he wanted to see how a \$500 chair "set." How the \$950 Sheraton four-poster lay is not recorded.





FLUVANNA FARM  
MADE OVER  
IN A DAY

LAWFIELDS, once the farm of a veteran of the Revolution Major Thomas Winn and now owned by Thomas Bugg, a veteran of World War II, was chosen by the Thomas Jefferson Soil Conservation District for demonstration purposes. The idea was to show what could be done under the institution of conservation projects and good farm management.

Mr. Bugg saw the changes of a generation done in a day. Areas were cleared for new crops, strip cropping, terracing, tree planting, and gulley control. Woods were prepared for wild life propagation, a new road was built, and a fish pond excavated. A new well was dug, the house painted, and the old kitchen modernized.

More than a hundred concerns and individuals contributed the machinery, men, and money for the outlay which was witnessed by about 5,000 persons, mostly farmers from the five counties in the district.

YEAR BOOK  
OF THE  
FLUVANNA FAIR  
ASSOCIATION, 1918



CARYSBROOK, VIRGINIA  
OCTOBER  
15, 16, 17, 1918  
LIST OF PRIZES OFFERED





# Fluvanna Festival

## Fluvanna Festival Play

"Fluvanna Finds Favour"

### PART I

SCENE 1 ..... Awating an Arrival  
 SCENE 2 ..... Algonquin Reflections  
 SCENE 3 ..... Neater Home than Jamestown  
 SCENE 4 ..... Separation and Naming of a Colony  
 SCENE 5 ..... What Next Professor?  
 SCENE 6 ..... Courthouse Ground Breaking Ceremony  
 SCENE 7 ..... The "Romantic" Governess

### PART II

## Historical Tours

James River Homes

UPPER BREMO ..... Mr. and Mrs. Forney Johnson  
 LOWER BREMO ..... Mr. and Mrs. Cary Codee  
 RICKS ..... Mr. Phillip Campbell  
 GLEN AYRON ..... Mr. and Mrs. Warren P. O'Brien  
 POINT OF FORK ..... Dr. and Mrs. Russell N. Stewell  
 June 8, 2:30 P. M. ..... Admission \$1.50  
 Tea will be served at Lower Bremo

James River Homes

WILMINGTON HOUSE (Grounds) ..... Mrs. W. J. Fry  
 CARYSBURG ..... Mr. and Mrs. John W. Holland  
 COLES TAVERN ..... Mr. and Mrs. Douglas C. Folkes  
 GLEN BURNIE ..... Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Snodder  
 CUMBER ..... Mr. Walter Ryan  
 UNION HALL ..... Dr. and Mrs. Charles Irving  
 BEAVERDALE FARM ..... Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Parrish  
 June 9, 2:30 P. M. ..... Admission \$1.50  
 Tea will be served at Cumber

## Church Services

All churches have been invited to have a special commemorative service for June 9 for kinspeople and friends, who to open the churches on Sunday afternoons.

1957



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 and Chers  
 us to my  
 which I  
 among  
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 manc

## Genesis of Fluvanna's Charter 1777

The Area of the Assembly presented by representatives of  
 the parent counties.  
 HENRICO formed in 1634 ..... Judge Harold Sneed  
 GOOCHLAND formed in 1727 ..... Mather H. Omohundro, Jr.  
 ALBEMARLE formed in 1744 ..... Henry Hader  
 FLUVANNA formed in 1777 ..... Col. N. J. Perkins  
 PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER ..... Col. J. C. Wicker  
 DR. R. E. LOVING ..... "Fluvanna's Milestones"  
 "STAR SPANGLED BANNER" ..... Band  
 Marshall Harley Norton Mason, Jr.

## Fluvanna County Festival

1777-1957

"Pride of Our Fathers"

COURTHOUSE DAY  
 Palmyra, Virginia  
 June 8

10:30 A. M.

CONCERT in Park ..... Fluvanna County High School Band  
 CAPT. G. R. EGERTON, Director

11:00 A. M.

JOSEPH PAYNE SWEAD, Preaching  
 INVOCATION ..... Rev. Temple S. Collins  
 QUARTETTE from Abrams High School

"Pride of Our Fathers"  
 "Erikil Saw De Wheel"

PRESENTATION OF COLORS  
 Flag of the Queen Anne Period in honor of the men who helped establish the Virginia Colony presented by Fluvanna guard in uniform of frontiersmen.  
 Flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia in honor of an American Independence. Presented by the Monticello Guard, Charlottesville, Virginia, in full dress uniform of the Virginia General Infantry, Virginia National Guard. First Lieutenant Gilbert J. Sullivan, commanding  
 Confederate Flag in honor of the men of Fluvanna County who fought for States Rights, and Individual Liberties. Presented by a Color Guard in Confederate uniform from the 1st Stuart Horse Cavalry, C. S. A. See Joseph C. Johnson.  
 United States Flag honoring men of Fluvanna County, who fought in World Wars I and II, and in Korea. Presented by Color Guard of the United States Marine Corps from the Staff of the 1st Supply Co., U. S. M. C. R. Charlottesville, Virginia. Capt. George M. VanSlate, commanding



## OLD STONE JAIL

THE OLD JAIL, built in 1831, has been carefully restored and is now a museum. Five of the six rooms have been assigned to depict a particular segment of the early history of the county.

The three downstairs rooms are (1) "The Family Room," showing articles used in the home, (2) "The Patriots' Room," showing memorabilia of the famous sons and daughters of Fluvanna; and (3) the Entrance Hall, where visitors to the museum will be welcomed.

The upstairs room which has the prisoner's cage, is "The Farm Room" and houses articles pertaining to the agricultural history and development of the county. "The Documents Room" is also located upstairs. This room contains many original and photostatic copies of papers and documents which are significant to the history of the County.

The remaining room, the upstairs center hall, is planned as a committee or small-group meeting room and to serve as a special exhibit room. Contemporary exhibits will sometimes be on display here as well as those of an historical nature.

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Fluvanna, acting through its Board of Supervisors, do hereby express to the organizations and the citizens of Fluvanna who have and who are endeavoring to restore the OLD JAIL, their appreciation of the work, time, effort and money so expended, and in consideration thereof, do hereby agree that the County of Fluvanna will assume responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the OLD JAIL from the time its restoration is completed, and will continue to do so, keeping it in good shape in order that it may serve the purposes set forth above.

WHEREAS numerous organizations and a great number of the citizens of Fluvanna County have already given and will continue to give of their time, money and interest in and to the restoration of the OLD JAIL, situated on the property of the County at Palmyra, Fluvanna County, Virginia, and the development of the surrounding area as a garden and park; and

WHEREAS the County of Fluvanna, acting through its Board of Supervisors, recognizes that the restoration of the OLD JAIL will greatly benefit the County of Fluvanna and the people of the County in that it:

- (1) Will preserve the relics and records of the County of Fluvanna.
- (2) Will offer and afford to the organizations and people of the County a meeting place for various and sundry purposes in the future.
- (3) Will save and preserve the historic landmarks of the County.



(4) Will stimulate interest in the history of Fluvanna County.

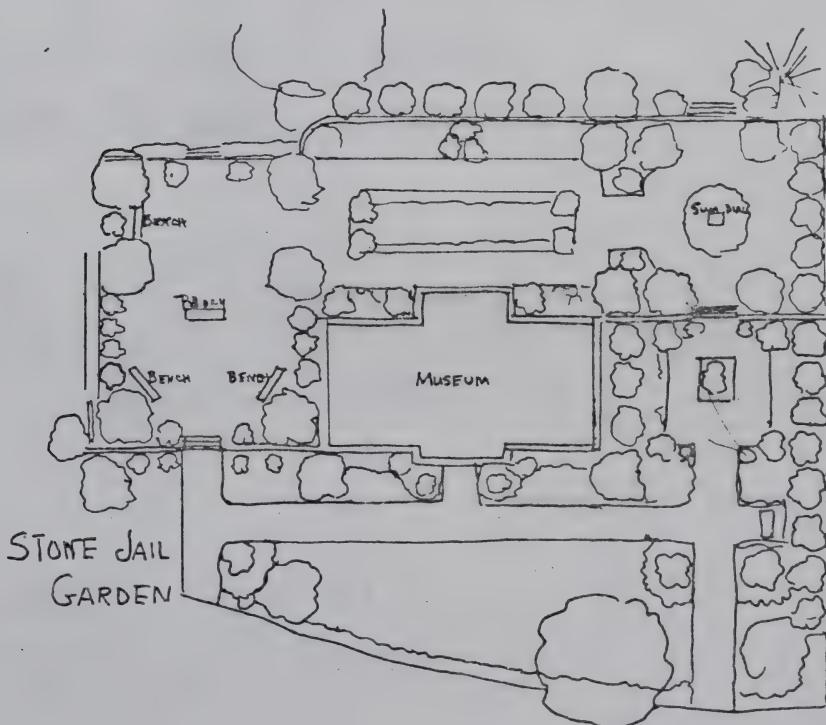
(5) Will attract tourists, historians and architects.

(6) Will greatly enhance the beauty of the Court House grounds and buildings located at Palmyra, Va.



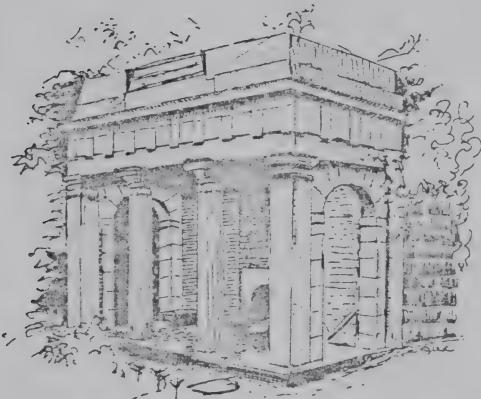
## THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

THE GARDEN was given as a memorial garden by Mrs. Malcolm Perkins, the former Miss Sallie Gray Shepherd of Palmyra. A sun dial will be set in an old mill stone from the old Hughes Mill on Byrd Creek. Mrs. Betty Perkins Hughes of Greenwood, was of this Hughes line and the stone was placed in the garden by her son, William Ronald Cocke III.





HOMECOMING IN FLUVANNA  
WEEKEND OF JUNE 22, 1963



*Tentative Program*

COURTHOUSE DAY — Opening of the Museum in the old stone jail; dedication of the Memorial Garden; re-dedication of the Confederate Park, with color guard and music.

TEA — Presenting a hundred years in dress and song at Point of Fork.

PAGEANT — Depicting scenes in Fluvanna homes during the Civil War.

HERITAGE DAY — Sunday morning — Services in the churches. Sunday afternoon — Service at Temperance Temple, Bremo.



BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS OF FLUVANNIANS

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J. E. B. STUART'S CAVALRY

REMINISCENCES BY SERGEANT B. J. HADEN

AS THIS little work was only commenced for newspaper publication, and not with the view of its assuming this far, I deem it proper to make a few statements. Intending at first only to write a few sketches of the most interesting events of the War; in consequence of this you will perceive that the second battle of Manassas makes its appearance a year before it is due. But when my friends learned that I had resolved to write these sketches, I was urged by some to make them as interesting as possible, and have them put into this shape. In consequence, I have since endeavored to record the events in the order in which they occurred; if I have failed, I hope I will be excused, as I have had to rely on memory entirely. I have endeavored to give a true and unbiased account of every transaction. And while I expect to be criticised, as but few persons see things exactly alike, yet I don't think I have shot quite so wide of the mark as did the colored preacher who raised the curiosity of his hearers to fever heat by a description of the manner in which Washington led the Hebrew children across the Plains of Manassas and rested upon the banks of the Potomac to feast on light-bread and fish.

SOME FAMILY HISTORY

by CHARLES SCOTT LANDRAM

CHARLES SCOTT LANDRAM got together a little brochure dealing almost entirely with family connections in Fluvanna County. This was largely the Garnett and Landram connections and their intermarriages with the Stranges and other members. This little work was written entirely for family consumption, but it does have some rather interesting items dealing with the county history.



## THE OMOHUNDRO GENEALOGICAL RECORD

by MALVERN HILL OMOHUNDRO

JOHN BURWELL OMOHUNDRO, "Texas Jack," was born July 26, 1846, at his father's home, "Pleasure Hill," near Palmyra. He was once a partner of Col. Wm. P. Cody, known as Buffalo Bill. He was called the Boy Scout of the Confederacy and fought with "Jeb" Stuart. He was a natural fisherman, hunter, horseman, and marksman, and loved danger, adventure, and the out-of-doors. He tried to enlist at the age of 14 in the War Between the States, but did not get in until he was 16, and became a scout of ability and bravery. Like everyone else, he became very poor after the war, and, hearing of immense ranches in Texas, decided to go west. He went to work as a cowboy on a ranch in Texas. Adventure seemed to be drawn to this dashing man like steel to a magnet.

He earned the name of "Texas Jack" because once when there was a very bad drought in Tennessee, and many were starving, he bought cattle with his own money, and with several other cowboys drove the herd to Tennessee. Passing through Indian territory, he lost seven cowhands and part of the cattle to the Indians. After six months of weary travel, he reached the stricken town in western Tennessee. All the people of the town went out to meet the cattle and the cattle drivers, and hailed the men as their saviors. One of the squires, or head men of the town, suddenly asked, "Who is at the head of this group?"

A quiet unassuming man answered, "I am."

"What is your name?"

"Jack," answered the man.

"Where are you from," asked the squire.

"Texas," answered Jack.

"Well, boys," said the squire, "here is Texas Jack, who has saved us."

"Hurrah for Texas Jack," the crowd yelled. And from that time the name of "Texas Jack" stuck.

Finally John Omohundro was made a U. S. Government Scout. Jack met and married a beautiful French woman, the leading ballet dancer of the American stage, and they were in show business together. He died in 1880 and was buried in Colorado.



## DESCENDANTS OF NICHOLAS PERKINS OF VIRGINIA

*by* WILLIAM K. HALL

THE PRESENT account is less concerned with the ancestors of Nicholas Perkins than with his descendants. Unlike his ancestors, about whom almost nothing is known for certain, the descendants of Nicholas Perkins are definitely known — known by the thousands. They constitute a varied and interesting group. A dozen generations of them have now lived in this country.

To some of them the Perkinses are "an old Virginia family." In a sense, this is certainly true. Some of the descendants live today where their Perkins ancestors have always lived: within 50 miles of the land on which the original Nicholas Perkins settled. Some live on the same acres deeded to their ancestors two centuries ago by His Majesty King George of England. The Perkinses, although admittedly not the most eminent, were nonetheless solid, respectable people of high standing in their own communities where they were accepted without question, as beffited an old Virginia family. Walter Perkins said, "Everyone knew us. We didn't have to worry about who our ancestors were."

But as long ago as 1763 the Perkinses ceased to be a purely Virginia family. Descendants moved into North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee, and on to the South and West. Some of the Virginia Perkinses seated on their ancestral acres might be surprised to learn that Dennis O'Brien, Christian Seitz Viemeg, Frederick Philip Kopp, Vida Cecilia Nereauz, Rebecca Kay Ventrello and Eric Ollson are names of Perkins descendants. Descendants have fought in each of the country's wars, gone to California in the gold rush, pioneered on every frontier from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Descendants have scattered to all parts of the country — even to New England. None have been president, but one such as Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, has been famous. A few have been state governors. As a whole, the Perkinses are as diverse and as widely scattered as any other American family.

This compilation is for those of the descendants who care to take a glance backward through the years and the miles — back to the first Nicholas Perkins who settled in tidewater Virginia in 1641.



## MEMOIRS OF THE ROSS BROTHERS

(By NAT. PERKINS, formerly of Pine Forest, Bybees, Virginia — home of the descendants of Peter Ross from 1778-1950).

THREE BROTHERS, James Eastin, William Daniel and Nathaniel Wheeler, entered the Civil War, not from compulsion but because they were willing, if necessary, to give their lives for what they believed was right. I have tried to show through letters they had written home, the day by day lives of soldiers; where they lived, what they ate and the problems they encountered during their long struggle.

Quoting one letter while two brothers were on the march to Gettysburg in 1863:

This leaves us as well as usual after taking such a long march. We are now in the very midst of Yankeedom and have had quite a fine time of it so far. I can't help but feel sorry for the citizens to save my life when I see how frightened they are when they see us coming; but when I think again of the waste in my native state, I can't have much sympathy for them. Pennsylvania is the finest country I ever traveled through in my life. Everything is done up to order after the true Yankee style. We have come this far without having any fighting. How much further we will go through Yankee land I don't know . . . give my love to Mother and all the family and all my friends in old Fluvanna. James Eastin joins me in love to you all.

WILLIAM DANIEL ROSS

This was the last letter received from these two soldiers, for they were killed in Pickett's charge at Cemetery Ridge. Nat. Ross became sick in the army, and died in Fluvanna in 1863.

So ended the lives of the three Ross brothers, typical Confederate soldiers, young, with a family at home, fighting for what they believed to be right. Because of men like James, Nat. and Daniel Ross, the spirit of the South was kept alive during the many hard years of the Civil War.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF A QUIET LIFE

by WILLIAM JOSEPH SADLER

DURING the latter years of his life, I often asked my father, William Joseph Sadler, to write down for me his recollections of the past. To me many incidents of his life, as he used to recount them to us with his keen sense of humor, and in a style which was that of W. J. Sadler and none other, were indeed fascinating. I wanted to preserve these memories for his children and his grandchildren. When-



ever I would broach the subject to him, however, he would demur, saying, "I can't do it. I'd never get the commas and semi-colons in the right places, or spell the words correctly either." But my reply to this was always, "You put down the facts, and I'll put in the commas."

I have seen fit to put with my father's "Recollections" some recollections of him written by others who knew him well. Those asked to contribute are of various ages, localities, and viewpoints, in order that the picture may be as rounded as possible. I have also added a section dealing with the Sadler ancestry, which will, of course, be of interest only to those of our family connection.

— VERGILIA SADLER

### SNEADS OF FLUVANNA

THE WESTWARD migration of the eighteenth century furnished a large proportion of the settlers in Louisa, Goochland and Fluvanna counties. Among the migrants to Fluvanna was one Archibald Snead, whose youngest son John was the father of three sons who married three Pollard sisters. Two of these couples had one daughter each, the other had three daughters, and each had seven sons, making a total of twenty-six double first cousins living in the same community at the same time — a most remarkable circumstance.

*Sneads of Fluvanna*, a book written in 1909 by one of these cousins, Virginia (Snead) Hatcher, gives a history of her family from 1635, when its first Snead ancestor arrived in Virginia. Since the author knew all her double first cousins, she could draw a first-hand vignette of life in the Fork Union community, although unfortunately the glimpses are only tantalizing — such as that of the temperance procession in which her grandmother marched at the opening of Temperance Hall, a handsome brick building given by General Cocke of Bremo, which later was used as a hospital in the Civil War, as was the church; or of the debating society that flourished before the war, when the best minds of Fork Union agitated themselves in earnest debate on such questions as whether Queen Elizabeth was justified in having Mary Queen of Scots beheaded and whether a teacher was greater than a preacher. She told of the split in the church that resulted in the building of another church (but not the causes of the split) and the healing of the breach after the other church collapsed.

She touched upon many events that show a large family in a contained, almost isolated rural community, becoming gradually



a part of the larger world beyond, and developing its capacity for self-improvement in all the arts of peace time. Never belligerent, always an optimist, she gave in her lively book no detail to ruffle the smooth surface of family unity, but inscribed a record of only the admirable qualities and activities of an unusual family.

Mrs. Hatcher wrote her book at the request of the descendants of John Snead assembled for a reunion in 1909. Since no copies were available in 1958 to the five hundred who had gathered for a second Snead reunion, a second edition, with a supplement by her granddaughter, was brought out in 1960. — VIRGINIA DEMOTTE COX

### WINN AND JARVIS

FROM THE BOOK *Winn and Jarvis*, is obtained interesting information about the Fluvanna Winns. This selection concerns Captain John Winn (born 1789) and his advice to his sixteen children.

I regret that my situation and circumstances in life have often prevented me from more free and full disclosure of my views and advice to my children upon many subjects.

As you are about to embark upon a new theatre of life and not knowing the disappointments and difficulties attendant — on old human affairs and to which youth and unexperience are more particularly subject — I take this occasion of putting a few of my thoughts on paper. I entreat you to reflect often and seriously upon the admonitions and advice of your parents who are your best friends.

Now comes the duties you have to perform in domestic life and especially for the partner of your choice. I shall refer you to the Bible for your general guide hoping that you will enjoy that degree of happiness which much depends upon yourself to secure. If a difference of opinion upon any subject should exist, consult freely and both agree to act with deliberation for the best.

Manage your domestic concerns with firmness and economy — strive not to make a better show than you can reasonably keep up and support.

Require of your servant not more than they can reasonably perform — but let your orders be obeyed. Never listen to or encourage tales of any sort from them.

Trust all persons who conduct themselves well with civility and respect, recollect the old proverb — "Every person is entitled to civility, but very few to confidence."

Speak freely of no one, let other persons' business alone and attend to your own. It is better to cultivate good opinion than to get ill will and hatred. Upon the notice of human affairs, we are all in some degree dependent on each other and public sentiment in favor of us or against us — has great effect.





## GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

FLUVANNA COUNTY is located in the Piedmont province and is underlain by rocks that had their origin from 300 million to 500 million years ago. The rocks found in the county have undergone considerable change since their origin and in many instances it is difficult to determine the nature of the original rocks. Some of the rocks are of sedimentary origin and were formed in bodies of water that once covered the area; others are probably of volcanic origin flowing out on the surface as lava and solidifying; others originated from magma or molten material that came from deep within the earth.

The eastern part of the county lies within a gold belt that crosses the Piedmont province and some gold has been mined, mainly during the 19th century. The Tellurium Mine, located partly in Fluvanna County and partly in Goochland, is reported to have yielded about \$1,000,000 worth of gold. The Page, Hughes, and Snead were among the smaller mines. Slate occurs in the southern part of the county and some has been quarried. The slate is a potential source of raw material for use in the manufacturing of such building materials as brick and tile. Soapstone deposits occur throughout the south-central part of the county and one deposit near Palmyra is known to have been mined to a limited extent.

Along the western edge of the county several rather large quartz veins are found. One of these was worked during the early part of the 20th century and the quartz sold to glass manufacturers. This



deposit is being worked at present and the material is sold for use in the building industry. Material from this deposit has been used on buildings in Washington, D. C., New York City, and in Canada.

Rhodonite, a mineral composed of manganese and silica, is found along a tributary of Cunningham Creek near Central Plains. The deposit is of special interest to mineral collectors and the mineral, because of its pink color, is sometimes cut and polished for use in costume jewelry.

Valued heirlooms in Fluvanna are pieces of jewelry made from Fluvanna gold.

— O. R. GOOCH

## THIS, OUR NATIVE LAND

A SON OF "Ole Flu" who goes forth "to see the world" carries with him a deep feeling of love and loyalty for his home County. He will not be boastful; he has seen Fluvanna through the eyes of love and tucked the picture away in his heart. One doesn't open his heart to just anyone. For what man would stand on a busy street corner and try to tell another about the sunlit fields, rolling hills, shady woodlands, and singing streams of his childhood? This native son will have tongue-in-cheek jokes to tell about his unique county, but they are gentle jokes. After all, one does not bother to tease or reminisce about something he does not love!

Fluvanna lies in the heart of Virginia, a gently rolling land with rich lowgrounds on three rivers: the James, the Rivanna, and the Hardware. It is an area of many small creeks; every farm has one or more favorite springs where the farmers stopped to drink of the crystal clear water and to rest a moment.

Fluvanna is still a predominantly agricultural society, uncrowded, less hurried. Here one finds independence, security, contentment, pride of ownership — a place where a man can be his "own boss." We live with unspoiled natural wonders, close to the enduring land that stretches out in the fields and woods, pastures our cattle and shelters our homes with trees. It is a land of hidden beauty spots, inviting by-roads for the explorer to see remnants of the past and enjoy the present.



The soil responds well to proper treatment and modern farm methods and better conservation practices have changed the face of Fluvanna. Improved pastures stay green for most of the year, and irrigation systems eliminate some of the damage of droughts. Strip-cropping, contour planting, and meadow strips prevent loss of needed water and topsoil. More well-fertilized land is allotted to grazing of cattle and less to grains such as were grown for horses, for here, as elsewhere, the horse has become a symbol of luxury, not a necessity. This is the era of large earth-moving equipment on the farm; many acres of woodland can be cleared for farming in a single day. Better farm roads, numerous farm ponds and several private lakes are now prominent features of our rural life.

Besides providing water for cattle and irrigation, the farm pond provides a recreation spot and good fishing. The fishermen find river fishing made easier, too, for boat-landings have been built along the banks.

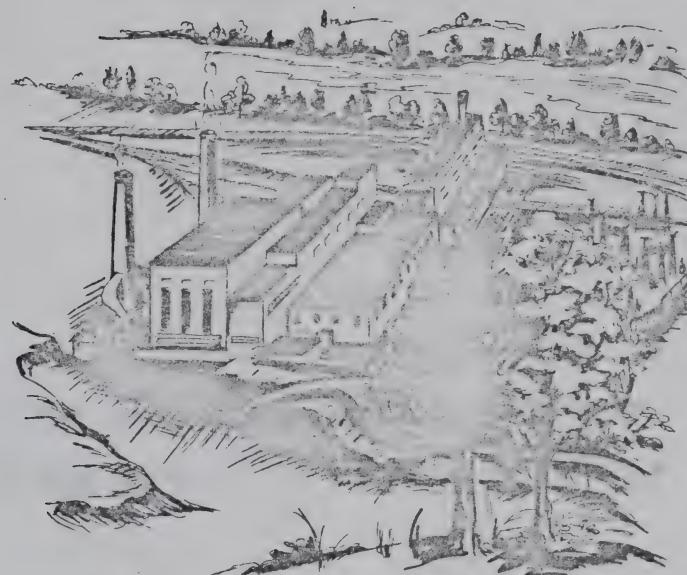
With better hayfields and pastures and acres of wild honeysuckle the deer have increased, 830 being killed last year. Since the prohibition of grazing on the commons, large areas of woodland have been cut and the honeysuckle has grown faster than the young trees. Now large acreages of woodland are rented by hunt clubs, with each member given a numbered "deer stand." Rabbits have decreased, and the quail and turkeys have become more wiley. Coon hunters find an ample supply of coons and gardeners find there is a surplus!

Harvesting pulpwood, sawing and planing lumber, have long furnished employment for men of the County, and in the past few years reforestation by pulpwood companies and private owners have employed men to poison areas of undesirable growth and plant loblolly pines. These acres of growing pines are creating a "new look" on land once farmed by early planters.

All parts of the county are made accessible by a network of good roads. With an eye for beauty there are restrictions on advertising signs and dumping. Two railroad lines serve the area and telephones and electricity are available throughout the County. A furniture factory, two gas pipelines and a pumping station, and the plant of the Virginia Electric and Power Co., all furnish employment and provide tax revenue.



Fluvanna is not resting on "soft yesterdays." Many civic organizations are striving to improve Fluvanna; to provide employment and a good standard of living for all without creating problems of industrialization. Many retired people have moved to the County and they have made many worthwhile contributions. The Chamber of Commerce has adopted the slogan, "Forward, Friendly Fluvanna."





## ADDENDA and ERRATA

PAGE 26: Mr. Bryant, not Mr. *Bryan*.

PAGE 27: Wood's map of Fluvanna in 1820 showed a meeting house at Columbia.

PAGE 31: Venable, not *Venablex*.

PAGE 35: No *Peachy* family in Fluvanna in 1861, perhaps Peacher.

PAGE 36: Unable to verify exact dates of founding of Negro churches as stated.

PAGE 37: Columbia, earlier than Barnesburgh, was established November 25, 1788.

PAGE 41: G. H. Kent, not *A. H. Kempt*.

PAGE 50: James River Canal, 1785, not 1875.

PAGE 56: Middleton Mills near Shores destroyed by Yankees.

PAGE 61: Ann Barraud Cocke, first wife of General Cocke, died 1816, not 1860.

PAGE 72: Mrs. Annie Campbell Snead—*Pleasant View* also known as Pleasant Green.

PAGE 75: Rosser Johnson, not *F. L. Johnson*.

PAGE 88: "She found a trunk," trunk instead of *truck*.

PAGE 100: Mrs. Betty Perkins Hughes Cocke of Greenwood.

PAGE 109: E. O. Gooch, not *O. R. Gooch*.





### ORIGIN OF FLUVANNA.

Virginia was divided on the 20th day of 1776.  
For the purpose of government, it was divided into  
13 colonies, which were called the United States.





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